

## US targets extremist group in Somalia

Military strikes reportedly aimed at leader of al-Shabab terrorist organization

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

If deadly U.S. strikes in Somalia on Monday succeeded in taking out top al-Shabab leaders it would mark a severe but not necessarily fatal blow to a militant group that has proven resilient in battle, experts say.

The United States launched a military operation in Somalia on Monday against the al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist group, but officials have stopped short of saying whether the mission — reportedly aimed at the organization's top leader — was a success.

"We are assessing the results of the operation and will provide

additional information as and when appropriate," Pentagon press spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement.

So far, the Pentagon and its U.S. Africa Command, which oversees operations in Somalia, have not provided additional detail.

Local reports from Somalia, however, have claimed that U.S. drones

struck late Monday in southern Somalia, where top al-Shabab officials had been conducting meetings. The Associated Press reported that top al-Shabab members were among the dead, although it remained unclear late Tuesday whether the group's leader — Ahmed Abdi Godane — was among the six militants reportedly killed.

Abu Mohammed, a spokesman for al-Shabab, told the AP that two vehicles were heading toward the coastal town of Barawe, al-Shabab's main base, when they were hit. He said that Abdi Godane was in one of the vehicles but declined to say whether he was killed or injured.

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Russian President Vladimir Putin

AP



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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's just a situation that I don't think should have become political, which has become politically toxic, and I don't really know how to decontaminate that."

— Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, discussing the controversial Common Core educational assessment standards adopted, then rejected, by some states

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## MILITARY

# All rescued in US Marine helo crash

By HENDRICK SIMOES  
*Stars and Stripes*

MANAMA, Bahrain — All 25 personnel aboard a Marine helicopter survived after it crashed in the Gulf of Aden on Monday while attempting to land aboard the USS Mesa Verde.

The U.S. Navy said 17 Marines and eight sailors on board the CH-53E Super Stallion were rescued from the water and taken to the Mesa Verde. Some were treated aboard the amphibious transport dock ship for minor injuries.

Lt. Joe Hontz, U.S. 5th Fleet spokesman, called it "an absolute blessing" that everyone survived. "The team on the Mesa Verde and everyone else came together and saved 25 people."

He said the Mesa Verde deployed boats to rescue the survivors from the water.

The helicopter was transporting personnel to the ship from Djibouti. The cause of the crash is under investigation, but officials

said it was not the result of hostile activity.

The Mesa Verde is part of the Norfolk, Va.-based Bataan amphibious ready group, which also includes the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan and the dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall. On Sunday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel ordered a 21-day extension for the ready group and its embarked 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. The move is meant to ensure that the Bataan ready group will conduct a face-to-face turnover with the Makin Island amphibious ready group, which is already en route to replace it in the Middle East region.

Since deploying Feb. 8, much of the Bataan ready group's time has been spent in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea areas, where it has responded to several flash points for potential contingency operations.

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MANUEL A. ESTRADA/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A sailor guides a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter landing aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde during routine flight operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility in July.

## Lawyer for 9/11 mastermind resigns from the Army

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An Army lawyer assigned to defend the self-proclaimed mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, at Guantanamo Bay has resigned his commission after being told he was being pulled from the case to attend a graduate program required for promotion.

Maj. Jason Wright, one of a team of lawyers defending Mohammed, resigned Aug. 26 from the Army, National Public Radio and other news outlets have reported.

Wright joined the Army in 2005, and for nearly three years he served on Mohammed's defense team.

The Army had instructed him to leave the team in order to complete the course. He refused, saying it would have been unethical for him to leave the team.

The nine-month program can be deferred, which Wright had done once before. His latest request for a deferral was denied without explanation.

NPR asked the Pentagon to

comment. A spokesman from the Army wrote:

"The Judge Advocate General denied the second deferral request because a suitable and

**'The Constitution has been completely stepped on throughout this entire process.'**

Maj. Jason Wright former defense attorney for Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

promotion."

Mohammed is one of six "high-value detainees" being prosecuted at Guantanamo for offenses that could carry the death penalty.

Wright told NPR that it was

hard to gain any client's trust, but especially that of Mohammed. "All six of these men have been tortured by the U.S. government," he said.

He said his former client was waterboarded by the CIA 183 times and subjected to more than a week of sleep deprivation. Also, there were threats that his family would be killed. "And those are just the declassified facts that I'm able to actually speak about," said Wright.

According to online magazine Slate, Mohammed was captured in Pakistan in 2003 and held at CIA black sites before being sent to Guantanamo in 2006. The first military commissions there were established by the George W. Bush administration to prosecute detainees, but lacked the assurances of a fair trial under the U.S. Constitution and the Geneva Conventions.

Defendants were prohibited from hearing much of the evidence against them, and hearsay evidence or admissions gained under torture were admissible, so several military prosecutors

resigned in protest, Slate reported. The first commissions were invalidated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2006.

A revamped Military Commissions Act was enacted in 2009. The new version strives for greater transparency and the appearance of a fair trial, including provisions affording more autonomy to defense attorneys.

In April 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder announced that Mohammed would be tried under one of the new commissions.

The hardest thing to deal with as a defense lawyer, Wright told NPR, is fighting the government's influence.

"Leave aside our constitutional principles — which we should try to uphold irrespective of who the defendant may be — the Constitution has been completely stepped on throughout this entire process," he said. "That's a separate and distinct issue of how the U.S. now has shown just abhorrent leadership when it comes to actually following essential, fundamental human rights and due-process guarantees."

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## MILITARY

# DOD expands anti-terrorism efforts in Africa

## 2nd drone base in Niger will support US-French missions to track jihadists

By CRAIG WHITLOCK  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is preparing to open a drone base in one of the remotest places on Earth: an ancient caravan crossroads in the middle of the Sahara.

After months of negotiations, the government of Niger, a landlocked West African nation, has authorized the U.S. military to fly unarmed drones from the mud-walled desert city of Agadez, according to Nigerian and U.S. officials.

The previously undisclosed decision gives the Pentagon another surveillance hub — its second in Niger and third in the region — to track Islamist fighters who have destabilized parts of North and West Africa. It also advances a little-publicized U.S. strategy to tackle counterterrorism threats alongside France, the former colonial power in that part of the continent.

Although the two allies have a sporadic history of quarreling when it comes to military action, U.S. and French troops have been working hand in glove as they steadily expand their presence in impoverished West Africa. Both countries are alarmed by the presence of jihadist groups, some affiliated with al-Qaida, that have taken root in states whose governments are unable to exert control over their own territory.

In Niamey, Niger's capital, U.S. and French forces set up neighboring drone hangars last year to conduct reconnaissance flights over Mali, where about 1,200 French soldiers are trying to suppress a revolt that erupted in 2012.

In Chad, the U.S. Air Force has been flying drones and other aircraft from a French military base to search for hundreds of schoolgirls abducted by Islamic militants in northern Nigeria.

The White House approved \$10

million in emergency aid on Aug. 11 to help airlift French troops and provide midair refueling for French aircraft deployed to West Africa. Analysts said the monetary sum was less important than what it symbolized: U.S. endorsement of a new French plan to deploy 3,000 troops across the region.

"We have this confluence of interests where both countries are working much more closely than would have been thought possible just a couple of years ago," said Peter Pham, an expert on African security at the Atlantic Council, a Washington think tank.

The cooperation is a turnaround from early 2013, when France deployed troops to northern Mali to try to prevent the country from breaking apart. The Obama administration was slow to respond to requests to provide crucial logistical support to French troops, a reflection of how the two countries have sometimes worked at cross-purposes on security policy.

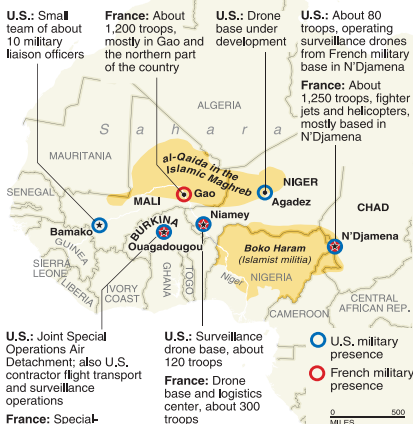
France is protective of its economic and political interests in West Africa. Yet in 2008 it shrank its military presence on the continent and instead opened a base in the Persian Gulf, an area that the U.S. military sees as its sphere of influence. Around the same time, the Pentagon created an Africa Command and expanded its training partnerships with French-speaking countries on the continent, to the annoyance of some officials in Paris.

In July, however, French President Francois Hollande announced that his country would again bulk up its forces in West Africa. Under Operation Barkhane (a term for a crescent-shaped sand dune), France will permanently deploy 3,000 troops at bases in Mali, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso.

French leaders consulted closely with U.S. officials before the operation. Pentagon officials said they were happy to let France

### Military footprints in the Sahara

The United States and France are expanding their military presence in West Africa with a complementary network of small bases to support counterterrorism missions and drone flights.



Craig Whitlock and Gene Thorp/The Washington Post

take the lead on the ground, enabling the U.S. Air Force to focus on drone flights and other airborne missions that it is better equipped to handle.

"They have a similar strategy and aim about what they are doing," said Sarah Covington, a sub-Saharan Africa analyst at IHS Country Risk, based in London. "The French have been in that region for decades now and have an extremely strong presence."

The new base in Agadez will put U.S. drones closer to a desert corridor connecting northern Mali and southern Libya that is a key route for arms traffickers, drug smugglers and Islamist fighters migrating across the Sahara.

The city was once a magnet for adventure tourists from Europe seeking a taste of nomad culture.

But rebellions by Tuareg tribesmen in recent years and an influx of Islamists have made it a more dangerous place.

In a written response to questions, Benjamin Benson, a spokesman for Africa Command, called Agadez "an attractive option for a base, given its proximity to the threats in the region."

In February, records show, the Pentagon's Defense Logistics Agency solicited bids for the delivery of more than 7 million gallons of jet and diesel fuel to Agadez later this year. In July, the Air Force posted a separate solicitation to upgrade the Agadez airport runway, a project estimated to cost between \$5 million and \$10 million. Documents cautioned that the project was still awaiting authorization from the government of Niger.

The next month, Mahamadou Issoufou, the president of Niger, traveled to Washington to attend the Obama administration's U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. On Aug. 7, the day after the summit, Issoufou gave final approval to the Agadez drone base during a meeting with Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work; Army Gen. David Rodriguez, the leader of Africa Command; and several other participants, according to Nigerian and U.S. officials.

Benson, the Africa Command spokesman, declined to say how many drones or U.S. military personnel will be deployed to Agadez, saying the operation is still in the planning stages.

The Pentagon continues to broaden its drone operations in Africa, despite growing demand for the aircraft in other conflict zones.

Since June, surveillance drones have been redeployed from bases in the Middle East to fly dozens of sorties a day over Iraq. The aircraft are also sorely needed in Afghanistan as the U.S. military draws down its forces there, as well as for counterterrorism missions in Yemen and Somalia.

The Pentagon also keeps watch over northern Libya with Predator drones that cross the Mediterranean from a U.S. base in Sicily, Italy.

The U.S. military would like to increase its reconnaissance flights over Libya, where Islamist factions and tribal militias have shattered the country. Having a drone base in Agadez will make it easier to reach the vast desert terrain in southern Libya, where many itinerant Islamist fighters have regrouped after being expelled from Mali, according to security analysts.

It is unclear whether the Pentagon will continue to operate drones from Niamey, the capital, about 500 miles southwest of Agadez, though some officials said it was unlikely. About 120 U.S. troops are deployed there at a Nigerian military base adjacent to the international airport.

## Somalia: US strikes on al-Shabab terrorists latest blow in campaign to stop them

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Peter Pham, director of the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council, said al-Shabab has proved "remarkably resilient" during its decade of operation, shifting from an armed militant youth wing of a loose Islamic alliance to the spearhead of an insurgency.

At one point the group "controlled more territory than the weak Somali government," Pham said. "Hence it would be foolhardy to predict its demise based on any single strike, even if the attack took out the current leadership."

Still, if U.S. strikes succeeded in the elimination of Abdi Godane, that was a significant development, Pham said.

"Even as he was turning the group away

from an insurgency and into more of a transnational terrorist group, Godane was also fighting an internal battle for the future direction of al-Shabab," Pham said.

"It may well be that his demise will give those who remain of these opponents the opportunity to shift the group's priorities or even possibly arrive at a modus vivendi with the Somali government," Pham added. "Time alone will tell."

In January, Voice of America reported that another U.S. drone strike almost killed Abdi Godane. He survived, but a senior aide was killed, VOA said.

The latest U.S. action comes after Somali government forces regained control of the high-security Godka Jilacow prison in Mogadishu that was attacked Sunday

by seven suspected Islamic militants. The Pentagon statement did not indicate whether the U.S. action Monday was related to the prison attack.

The Islamist group, along with Nigeria-based militant group Boko Haram, poses a threat to regional stability and has long been a concern for U.S. counterterrorism officials.

Al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for several high-profile operations beyond Somalia's border, including the siege last year of the upscale Westgate mall in Nairobi, Kenya, in which at least 67 people died and more than 170 were injured.

However, the group has come under increased pressure from U.S.-backed African Union forces, which have been battling

the insurgents for years.

Recently, the U.S. has been bolstering its own presence in Somalia, where about 120 special operators train and advise local Somali forces in their fight against al-Shabab. In the past, U.S. troops focused mainly on providing support to troops from the African Union Mission to Somalia, but special operations personnel are now providing direct training and assistance to the Somali armed forces.

U.S. officials have credited African Union troops with helping to turn the tide in Somalia, where al-Shabab was once poised to overrun the capital city of Mogadishu.

Stars and Stripes reporter Audrea Huff contributed to this report.  
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## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ANDREW FORD, FLORIDA TODAY/AP

# Wounded Marine standing tall as sheriff's deputy

By ANDREW FORD  
Florida Today

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Robert Smith was on foot patrol as a U.S. Marine in Fallujah, Iraq, in May 2008 when suddenly, a roadside bomb exploded. It was a hasty ambush, followed by small-arms fire.

He woke up in a hospital, one leg amputated above the knee.

He spent a year in physical therapy at a hospital in Washington before coming home to Brevard County. He got his associate degree, and began pursuing his bachelor's, but Smith got bored.

Growing up, he had dreamed of being a police officer and went into the military to move toward that goal.

He joined the Marine Corps. He was deployed to Iraq twice;

Robert Smith lost a leg while serving as a Marine in Iraq. Today he's a Brevard County Sheriff's Office deputy in Florida. His tattoo memorializes a comrade who died after the ambush that cost Smith his leg.

the second time was when he came home hurt. Smith has a tattoo on his right forearm memorializing a lance corporal who died after the ambush: boots, an M-16, a helmet, "all gave some, some gave all," in front of a U.S. flag backdrop.

He had long thought about law enforcement, and considered taking a desk job. He heard success stories of other amputees — guys with injuries like his who stayed in the military. One was a special forces operator.

"I was like, man, if he's still doing this job, there's no reason why I can't try to go do mine," Smith said.

At first he was worried about running. Losing any limb will leave someone slower than they were, but there are Olympic runners who are faster than some people with two legs.

"There's really just no excuse not to continue on with what you

want to do."

He met with Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey, who told him if he could pass the police academy and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office physical test, he'd have a chance at becoming a deputy. He graduated from Eastern Florida State College. He finished the physical test — which includes a 400-yard run, hurdles, low crawls and dragging a 150-pound mannequin 40 yards — in under four minutes, according to a post Ivey made on Facebook.

Smith was sworn in last month. After he completes training, he'll be on road patrol.

Smith played football and wrestled at Cocoa High School, and he still has the physique. The prosthetic leg has affected his gait, but the 5-foot-8, 220-pound former Marine is imposing. He prefers that the public doesn't know which leg was amputated — and when he is wearing long pants, it

is hard to tell.

"Between the Iraq and Afghanistan war[s], there have been a lot of amputations," Smith said. "And a lot of amputees that have lived due to new medical philosophies that are being learned and taught on the battlefield. It allows more people to live when, in all reality, if this had happened during the first gulf war, many of them probably would not have."

Smith has found the biggest misconception amputees have about themselves is what they can't do. He said that if they try, they'll do better than they expected. Their body will adapt to the change.

"If you were injured overseas, you lost a limb, you lost two limbs, your life's not over," he said. "You could still go and pursue whatever dreams you wanted to do before you joined the military."

# Navy sub chief lauds performance of North Dakota in sea trials

The Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — The Navy has put the \$2.6 billion submarine named North Dakota through tests to determine its seaworthiness and capabilities, ahead of its late-October commissioning.

The sub was delivered in late August and put through trials in the Atlantic Ocean that included taking it underwater, testing its propulsion plant and conducting an emergency resurfacing, the Navy said in a statement Tuesday.

"North Dakota and her crew delivered an outstanding performance," said Rear Adm. David Johnson, the Navy's program executive officer for submarines.

The sub, with a crew of 138 sailors, can launch cruise missiles,

deliver special forces commandos and carry out surveillance. It is the first Navy vessel to carry the name North Dakota in a century. It was to be commissioned in Connecticut in May, but that was postponed because of several design changes.

The commissioning is now set for Oct. 25 in Groton, Conn.

"Now that certifications are complete, and we're armed with lessons learned, we can move forward knowing that we are providing our fleet with the most capable and battle-ready submarine possible," said Capt. David Goggins, a submarine program manager.

The crest of the North Dakota features wheat stalks and a pair of crossed revolvers beneath the bow of the sub.



The Pre-commissioning Unit North Dakota goes through brave sea trials in the Atlantic Ocean last month to determine the submarine's seaworthiness and capabilities, ahead of its Oct. 25 commissioning.

COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP



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## MIDEAST

# Militants claim second beheading

## Video purports to show Islamic State killing another reporter

By ZEINA KARAM  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — An Internet video posted Tuesday purported to show the beheading of American journalist Steven Sotloff by the Islamic State group, which called it retribution for continued U.S. airstrikes in Iraq.

Sotloff, 31, who freelanced for Time and Foreign Policy magazines, had last been seen in Syria in August 2013 until he appeared in a video released online last month by the Islamic State group that showed the beheading of fellow American journalist James Foley.

Dressed in an orange jumpsuit against the backdrop of an arid Syrian landscape, Sotloff was threatened in that video with death unless the U.S. stopped air-

strikes on the group in Iraq.

In the video distributed Tuesday and entitled, "A Second Message to America," Sotloff appears in a similar jumpsuit before he was beheaded by an Islamic State fighter.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the video's authenticity. The SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S. terrorism watchdog, first reported about the video's existence.

Unlike Foley's beheading, which was widely shared on Twitter accounts affiliated with the Islamic State group, the video purporting to show Sotloff's killing was not immediately posted online, though several jihadi websites told users to expect it Tuesday.

The fighter who beheads Sotloff in the video called it retribution

for Obama's continued airstrikes against the group in Iraq.

"I'm back, Obama, and I'm back because of your arrogant foreign policy towards the Islamic State... despite our serious warnings," the fighter said. "So just as your missiles continue to strike our people, our knife will continue to strike the necks of your people."

At the end of the video, he threatened to kill a third captive, a Briton, David Cawthorne Haines.

Sotloff's mother had pleaded for his release last week in a video directed at the Islamic State group. Addressing the leader of the Islamic State group by name, Shirley Sotloff said in a video her son was "an innocent journalist" who shouldn't pay for U.S. government actions in the Middle East over which he has no control.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he wasn't immediately aware of the purported Sotloff video and wasn't in a position to confirm its authenticity.

"This is something that the administration has obviously been watching very carefully," Earnest said. "Our thoughts and prayers first and foremost are with Mr. Sotloff and Mr. Sotloff's family and those who worked with him."

The Islamic State group which has taken over a third of Syria and Iraq has terrorized rivals and civilians alike with widely publicized brutality as it seeks to expand a proto-state it has carved out on both sides of the border.

In its rise to prominence over the past year, the group has frequently published photos and videos of everything from bombings and beheadings to mass killings.

## Group details evidence of Islamic State war crimes

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
AND DIAA HADDAD  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An international rights group accused the extremist Islamic State group on Tuesday of carrying out a systematic campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in northern Iraq that includes mass killings, abductions and other war crimes.

In a new report, Amnesty International said militants have abducted "hundreds, if not thousands" of women and children who belong to the ancient Yazidi faith. The extremists also have rounded up Yazidi men and boys before killing them, the London-based group said.

The report adds to a growing body of evidence outlining the scope and extent of the Islamic State group's crimes since it began its sweep from Syria across neighboring Iraq in June. The militants have since seized much of northern and western Iraq, and have stretched as far as the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

On Monday, the United Nations' top human rights body approved a request by Iraq to open an investigation into alleged crimes committed by the Islamic State group against civilians. Its aim is to provide the Human Rights Council with a report and evidence that could shed further light on Iraqi atrocities and be used as part of any international war crimes prosecution.

In its report, Amnesty detailed how Islamic State group fighters expelled Christians, Shiites, Yazidis and others from their homes. It documented several cases where the militants rounded up Yazidi men and boys and killed them in groups after overrunning their ancestral lands in Iraq's far north.

The report also said the group had abducted hundreds of Yazidi women and children, most of whom were still missing.

"The massacres and abductions being carried out by the Islamic State provide harrowing new evidence that a wave of ethnic cleansing against minorities is sweeping across northern Iraq," said Amnesty investigator Donatella Rovera.

Two of the deadliest killings occurred in early August after the Islamic State fighters overran the Sinjar mountains area.

It was also unclear how many men and boys were killed. The Amnesty report said that in two mass killings, "hundreds" of men were likely shot to death.

Yazidi lawmaker Mahma Khalil called on the Iraqi government and international community to urgently help the Yazidis who are still facing "continuing atrocities" by the extremist militants.

"They have been trying hard to force us to abandon our religion. We reject that because we are the oldest faith in Iraq, that has roots in Mesopotamia," Khalil said.

## Nusra Front issues terms for release of UN troops

By RYAN LUCAS AND NICK PERRY  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Al-Qaida-linked Syrian rebels holding 45 Fijian peacekeepers hostage have issued a set of demands for their release, including the extremist group's removal from a U.N. terrorist list and compensation for the killing of three of its fighters in a shootout with international troops, an official said Tuesday.

The Nusra Front seized the Fijians on Thursday in the Golan Heights, where a 1,200-strong U.N. force monitors the buffer zone between Syria and Israel. The rebels also surrounded two Filipino units, but those U.N. troops escaped over the weekend.

Speaking in the Fijian capital of Suva, military commander Brig. Gen. Mosees Tikoitoga said the Nusra Front has made three demands for the peacekeepers' release: to be taken off the U.N. terrorist list; the delivery of humanitarian aid to parts of the Syrian capital of Damascus; and payment for three of its fighters it says were killed in a shootout with U.N. officers.

Tikoitoga did not say whether the rebels' demands should be seriously considered. He said the U.N. had sent hostage negotiators to Syria to take over discussions from military leaders.

"Negotiations have moved up to another level with the professional negotiators now in place," he said.

Tikoitoga also released the names of the 45 detained soldiers, who he said are led by Capt. Savanes Sivatibau Rabuka. He asked Fiji's community and church leaders to help look after the families of the captive troops and asked the public to also offer support.

"I appeal to all Fijians that while we pray for our soldiers in Syria that we be sensitive to



SEBASTIAN SCHEIMER/AP

U.N. soldiers observe Syria's Quneitra province at an observation point on Mount Bental in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights overlooking the border with Syria on Monday.

the families," he said. "The U.N. has assured us they will use all of their available resources for the safe return of our soldiers."

Syrian rebels, including Nusra Front militants, seized a border crossing with Israel on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights on Wednesday. The area has been engulfed in heavy fighting between the opposition fighters and President Bashar Assad's forces since then.

In Manila, Philippines, military chief of staff Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang said the 40 Filipino peacekeepers who escaped had not accepted a rebel demand that they give up their firearms and surrender because that would

have put the troops in grave danger.

Catapang said the rebel demands for the Fijians' release showed their true nature.

"We don't negotiate with terrorists," he said. "We have machine guns and crew-served weapons so if we give them our weapons, this will help create an international problem."

The Nusra Front, in a statement posted online Tuesday, accused the U.N. of doing nothing to help the Syrian people since he was uprising against President Bashar Assad began in March 2011. It said it seized the Fijians in retaliation for the U.N.'s ignoring "the daily shedding of the Muslims' blood in Syria."

# UKRAINE



MEYSLAV CHERNOV/AP

A Pro-Russia rebel prepares arms for an assault on the positions of the Ukrainian army at Donetsk airport, eastern Ukraine, on Sunday.

## Ukraine: Russian forces in two major rebel-held cities

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russian military forces have been spotted in both major rebel-held cities in eastern Ukraine, an official said Tuesday, prompting Ukraine to declare it now has to fight the Russian army, not just the separatists.

The statement on the Russians by Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security Council, came after the country's defense minister said Ukraine's armed forces are expanding their strategy from just fighting separatists to facing the Russian army in a war that could cost "tens of thousands" of lives.

Lysenko told reporters that Russian troops had been seen in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk as well as other locations throughout the east. The claim could not be confirmed independently. Lysenko also said 15 servicemen had been killed over the previous day.

In Moscow, a Kremlin aide sharply criticized EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso for breaching confidentiality when he quoted Russian President Vladimir Putin as saying that Moscow could take over Kiev in two weeks if it wished.

Yuri Ushakov, the Russian leader's foreign policy adviser, told reporters that Putin's statement was "taken out of context and carried a completely different meaning."

Ushakov lashed out at Barroso, saying it was a breach of diplomatic practices and "unworthy of a serious politician" to speak publicly about a private conversation.

Putin's comment reportedly came in response to Barroso pointing out Ukrainian and Western claims that Russia had sharply escalated the conflict in eastern Ukraine by sending regular army units into the country. NATO

# 1,000

The number of Russian soldiers that NATO estimates have entered Ukraine. NATO also said Russian President Vladimir Putin has 20,000 soldiers positioned along the Ukraine-Russia border. A rebel leader said last week that servicemen on leave were among some 4,000 Russians fighting in Ukraine, but Moscow continues to deny it has sent any soldiers.

Pro-Russia rebels have been fighting Ukrainian government troops since mid-April in a conflict that has left more than 2,500 people dead. In the last week, the rebels have scored significant gains on the ground, launching a new offensive along the Sea of Azov coast.

Efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the hostilities, which followed the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russia president and Russia's annexation of Crimea in March, have failed.

Representatives of Ukraine, Russia, the pro-Russia rebels and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe made another attempt Monday to reach an accord in Minsk, the Belarusian capital. Rebels presented a negotiating platform that dropped their previous demand for full independence and expressed readiness to negotiate a settlement that would respect Ukraine's territorial integrity in exchange for broad autonomy for its eastern provinces.

The talks lasted several hours and were adjourned until Friday, when the parties are expected to discuss specifics of a possible cease-fire and a prisoner exchange.

However, the prospect of talks between Ukraine and the rebels appear dim.

"We don't cooperate with terrorist organizations," said Iryna Heraschenko, the presidential envoy for eastern Ukraine, according to the Interfax news agency.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday urged the United States to use its influence with Ukraine to encourage efforts to reach a political settlement.

"It's necessary to restrain the party of war in Kiev, and only the United States can do it," he said at a briefing.

## Western states adopt softer definition of Ukraine 'war'

By GREGORY VISCUSI  
Bloomberg News

PARIS — For governments in the Baltic states of Latvia and Lithuania, Russia has invaded Ukraine and the two countries are now at war. Head farther west, and they're less sure what to call it.

While all agree that a line has been crossed, U.S. and NATO officials prefer to speak of an "incursion," the word used by President Barack Obama at a White House press conference Thursday. French leaders have warned President Vladimir Putin of more sanctions without defining what Russia has done.

"In the past 48 hours, we have tipped into a formal invasion," Ian Bremmer, president of the Eurasia Group, said in a Bloomberg television interview. "Russia and Ukraine as sovereign countries are now at war, and it's going to be very difficult for the United States and Europe to deny that."

Calling it war or an invasion would force the U.S. and European Union to consider steps they've been unwilling to take, short of military action, Bremmer said. While sanctions have been imposed on some areas of the Russian economy, Europe continues to rely on Russia for natural-gas imports, and Russian trade with

the EU was worth about \$390 billion last year.

"The EU appears to have exhausted its politically feasible options in the previous round" of sanctions, Ievgen Vorobiov, an analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, said in a telephone interview.

Plus, international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund would be limited in the assistance they could provide if Ukraine were in an official state of war, Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko said July 22. Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkivics said on Twitter that Russia's actions amount to a "war" that should be taken up by the United Nations Security Council. The Foreign Ministry in Lithuania, another former Soviet satellite state that's now one of the EU's 28 members, said it "strongly condemns the invasion of Ukrainian territory by Russian Federation military forces, which has obviously begun."

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, speaking on Polish radio, said the entry of Russian troops into Ukraine "violates a whole menu of international treaties."

The conflict — war or otherwise — has cost almost 2,600 lives, and there's no sign it is easing.

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# Baltics wary of Russia as they welcome Obama

## Moscow to review strategy as NATO plans rapid-reaction force



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## NATION



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Police work in front of the Woodland Hills Youth Development Center in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday.

# 32 teens escape Nashville detention center; 9 on run

By ERIK SCHELZIG  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Thirty-two teens escaped from a Nashville youth detention center by crawling under a weak spot in a fence late Monday, and nine of them were still on the run Tuesday, a spokesman said.

The group — ages 14 to 19 — left their rooms at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center and went into a common area, where they overwhelmed 16 to 18 staff members, Tennessee Department of Children's Services spokesman Rob Johnson said.

The group then kicked out a metal panel under a window to get out of the building and into a yard, Johnson said. The teens were running in the yard for a few minutes, and then they realized they could lift part of the chain-link fence and crawl out, Johnson said.

He said the fence is buried 8 inches deep into the ground, but the teens managed to pull up a weak portion and get out underneath. Once staff members saw some of the group escaping, they called the police, Johnson said.

Two teens were captured immediately and others were found overnight, Johnson said. Some were found by authorities, others turned themselves in, and others were turned in by their parents, he said.

No staff members were hurt in the incident, officials said. On Tuesday morning, local police and the Tennessee Highway Patrol were still searching for nine of the teens.

The 23 who were found or turned back in to the center were taken to Metro Nashville Juvenile court and could face escape charges, officials said in a news release.

The state-owned center in

northwest Nashville held 78 teens at the time of the escape, and most had committed at least three felonies, Johnson said. The center has a school, offers vocational training and career counseling and works to move teens to less restrictive settings, according to a state website. It holds teens until their 19th birthdays, and all have been charged as juveniles, not adults. Their records are sealed.

At the center, the teens stay in single rooms that are not locked from the inside, officials said. The teens wear blue pants with white or light gray T-shirts. The clothing has no markings.

The detention center was calm and back under control Tuesday morning, Johnson said. Police cars were on the scene, but there was little activity at the center or its neighbors — a women's prison, several offices for trucking companies and other businesses.

## Stop-work order might slow background checks

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The recent stop-work order that has prevented a major U.S. contractor from conducting background investigations could significantly affect the security clearance process, especially if it lasts for an extended period, industry officials said.

The stop-work order was issued Aug. 6 after USIS, the Falls Church, Va.-based company that does the bulk of the federal government's contracted investigations, was hacked, potentially exposing the records of thousands of government employees.

Since then, the two agencies that suspended the work have been trying to shift the investigations to other contractors or to do them in-house, the Office of Personnel Management said in a statement.

Cases that had been assigned to USIS are "pending completion," the OPM said. The stop-work order can remain in place for up to 90 days.

About 2,000 USIS employees have been furloughed, said a person familiar with the situation who was not authorized to discuss the company publicly.

The company's caseload was significant, averaging about 21,000 background checks a month. USIS, which conducted background clearances for National Security Agency leader Edward Snowden and Washington Navy Yard shooter Aaron Alexis, has come under criticism for churning through investigations and cutting corners.

But without USIS to perform the work, some fear that there will inevitably be a growing backlog of cases.

"USIS has been really at the forefront of doing security clearance investigations for many years now," said Evan Lesser, co-founder and managing director of ClearanceJobs.com. "And

shutting them down or pulling them out of the picture is going to cause delays — not just in new clearances but reinvestigations."

USIS has said the breach "has all the markings of a state-sponsored attack," and it was working with the agencies and federal law enforcement authorities "in redoubling our cybersecurity efforts." It declined further comment.

Alan Chvotkin, executive vice president of the Professional Services Council, an industry group, said that the longer USIS is sidelined, "the more significant the impact."

"Every day, new investigation requests come in," he said.

To mitigate the impact, the OPM is "shifting the fieldwork previously done by USIS to other contractors and federal staff as appropriate," the agency said.

"While this may cause a delay for some investigations as we make the adjustments, we are working to minimize any delays and we remain committed, first and foremost, to the security and quality of our background investigations."

The OPM has the ability to do some of the investigations itself. Two other contractors — CACI and KeyPoint Investigations Solutions — also do investigations for clearances. Neither responded to requests for comment.

The Department of Homeland Security is the other agency that issued a stop-work order. It referred questions to the OPM.

**'USIS has been really at the forefront of doing security clearance investigations for many years now.'**

Evan Lesser  
ClearanceJobs.com

## Detroit's historic bankruptcy trial begins

By COREY WILLIAMS  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Starting Tuesday, lawyers for Detroit were attempting to convince a federal judge at the city's bankruptcy trial that its plans to wipe out the city's billions of dollars in debt should be approved.

After some delays, the trial in U.S. District Court is beginning a little more than 13 months after Detroit became the largest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy.

Detroit expects to cut \$12 billion in unsecured debt to about \$5 billion, which is "more manageable," according to Bill Nowling, a spokesman for state-appointed emergency manager Kevyn Orr, who has been in charge of Detroit's finances since March 2013.

Most creditors, including more than 30,000 retirees and city em-

ployees, have endorsed the plan of adjustment put together by Orr, who guided Chrysler through its bankruptcy, and his restructuring team.

The plan includes commitments from the state, major corporations, foundations and others to donate more than \$800 million over 20 years to soften cuts to city pensions. In return, pieces in the city-owned Detroit Institute of Arts would be placed into a trust to keep them from being sold to satisfy creditors.

General creditors would take a 4.5 percent pension cut and lose annual inflation adjustments. Retired police officers and firefighters would lose only a portion of their annual cost-of-living raise.

The strongest opposition to the plan has come from bond insurers like New York-based Sincora Guarantee. Sincora has said its

claim is about \$400 million and that Detroit has unfairly discriminated against financial creditors.

"It has been a very fast-track bankruptcy, which Sincora has no issue with," company attorney James Sprayregen said. "Sincora's issue is the lack of transparency of the process and the unfair treatment of its claims."

Meanwhile, bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes is considering a request to issue a restraining order to stop Detroit from shutting off water to customers for unpaid bills. The judge heard arguments Tuesday before the trial began on the restraining order request made by critics of the city's water department.

The city stepped up shutoffs in March of those 60 days behind or owing more than \$150. About 15,000 customers had service shut off between April and June.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Lawyers for Detroit were to begin making their case to a federal judge Tuesday for a bankruptcy plan to clear the city's debt.

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# NATION

## Mom, 3 sons among 5 killed in plane crash

The Associated Press

ERIE, Colo. — Grief counselors are meeting with students who lost three friends in a small plane crash north of Denver over the holiday weekend.

Sunday's crash near the Erie Municipal Airport killed the pilot, real estate lawyer Oliver Frasca, his girlfriend, Tori Rains-Wedan, and her three sons — Mason Wedan, 15, and twins Austin and Hunter, 11.

The Daily Camera reported that Frasca trained hundreds of Denver area real estate brokers on real estate law while Rains-Wedan owned a company that offers education classes to real estate agents.

Boulder Valley School District spokesman Briggs Gamblin said counselors will be available at four Broomfield schools where the boys played sports and had friends.

The six-passenger plane crashed a few hundred yards northwest of the runway, Erie Police Cmdr. Lee Mathis said. Three people were declared dead at the scene, and two were taken to hospitals.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating why the Piper PA-46 airplane crashed.

Jan Culver told the Daily Camera that she was with a friend in a pasture near the airport when she heard the plane and saw it flying "really, really low."

"We heard it sputtering," she said. "Then there was no sound. We knew it was a crash."

Culver said the crash produced a small cloud of dust and she went to help.

"It was a plane upside down with some folks already out of the plane," she said. "I could tell there were some bad injuries."



MATT ROURKE/AP

Artist Stephen Layne works on a sculpture of boxing heavyweight champion Joe Frazier in Philadelphia last month. Next year, the sculpture is expected to be placed near the city's sports stadiums.

## 1-2 punch: Philadelphia to memorialize real boxer

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Busloads of tourists line up every day in Philadelphia to take photos with a statue of Rocky Balboa, the fictional heavyweight fighter made famous by Sylvester Stallone.

Will they line up for pictures with a sculpture of real hometown champion Joe Frazier?

"Properly promoted, I think it would be much, much bigger than Rocky," said Robin Hazel, who was visiting the city recently from Ottawa, Canada. "Rocky" is great, it's a movie. But Joe Frazier's real. And he's Philadelphia."

Artist Stephen Layne is finishing up a 9-foot-tall clay version of "Smokin' Joe" that captures Philly's local hero in mid-punch. Frazier became the first fighter to beat Muhammad Ali when he outslugged "The Greatest" for the heavyweight title in 1971.

The effort to memorialize Frazier, first announced two years

ago, was almost knocked out by fundraising problems and the sudden death of the original sculptor. Layne, 46, won the commission the second time around and began working in March.

Steering clear of the victorious, raised arms stance of the Rocky statue, Layne instead found his spark in a photo of Frazier flooring Ali with his powerful left hook.

Frazier won the 1964 Olympic gold medal in Tokyo and later finished with a professional record of 32-4-1, with 27 knockouts. Two of the losses were epic rematches with Ali, including the "Thrilla in Manila" in 1975.

When Frazier died of liver cancer three years ago at age 67, his place had long been cemented in sports history.

Layne plans to finish the clay work by the end of September. The statue will be cast in bronze and installed at Xfinity Live, an entertainment complex by the city's three sports stadiums.



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## NATION

## Beliefs shape views of Ferguson shooting

By JESSE WASHINGTON  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Lamont Jones and Keith Stephens stood 60 feet from each other, separated by four lanes of pavement and a thousand miles of perception.

Stephens was wearing a T-shirt printed with a police shield bearing the phrase "Officer Darren Wilson I stand by you," as part of a rally supporting the white policeman who killed Michael Brown, 18, who was unarmed. Jones was across the street, holding up a sign that said, in blood-red letters: "Darren Wilson is a Murderer."

There was no overlap in the facts as seen by Jones and Stephens at the demonstrations staged a few miles from suburban Ferguson, where Brown was killed. Like many who have closely followed the case, which sparked riots and yet another national racial conflagration, Jones and Stephens had

**'It's the tendency to seek out and give greater weight to information that confirms what we think, rather than contradicts it.'**

Scott Plous  
Wesleyan University professor

made up their minds.

Like uncounted numbers of Americans, they saw no gray area in the killing of Michael Brown.

Many are convinced there was no justification for Wilson to kill Brown because he was unarmed. Many others are certain it was justifiable because they believe Brown threatened Wilson.

Not everyone is so sure. In a CBS News/New York Times poll, 64 percent of respondents said they didn't know enough to say whether the shooting was justified. Only about half of respondents said they had paid "a lot" of

attention to the case.

But the national furor over Ferguson is fueled by those with strong opinions. They are the people still marching, or calling Brown a thug, or demanding that Wilson be convicted, or implying that Brown deserved his death.

Such strong opinions can often be influenced by "confirmation bias," psychologists say. A large body of research shows that people search for evidence to support their pre-existing viewpoints — and then interpret that information in a way that reinforces their beliefs.

"It's the tendency to seek out and give greater weight to information that confirms what we think, rather than contradicts it," said Scott Plous, a psychology professor at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Several witnesses described Brown breaking away from Wilson and running away. They recalled the officer firing shots at the fleeing Brown, and then Brown stopping.

The crucial question is what happened next.

The rallying cry of "Hands up, don't shoot" has become a powerful symbol of Brown's death. But could "hands up" be more myth than fact?

Alternatively, could Wilson, facing possible criminal charges over his decision to shoot, have exaggerated Brown's aggression, shading his statement of facts about what happened?

With so much incomplete and sometimes conflicting information, some confirmation bias is bound to occur.

"If one were to view a police officer pointing a gun at someone, and they also view police negatively, they may very well ignore whatever events precipitated the officer drawing his/her weapon, even though that action may have been entirely justifiable," Lou Manza, chair of the psychology department at Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania, said in an email.

"On the other side," he said, "if one has a favorable view of police, they're going to ignore the alleged assailant's behavior and simply assume that the police officer is correct, despite the fact that the officer may very well be wrong and unjustified in their actions."

"We're forced to reconstruct, to remember, to imagine what could have taken place," Plous said, "and those are precisely the conditions when we're likely to see bias."

## Fla. town's police probed over tickets

By JASON DEAREAN  
The Associated Press

WALDO, Fla. — The north Florida town of Waldo has long had a reputation as a speed trap, and it's no wonder. A small segment of highway that runs through Waldo requires drivers to speed up and slow down six times: 65 mph becomes 55 mph, 55 becomes 45, then goes back to 55, then back down to 45, to 55 again and, eventually, 35 mph.

AAA named the tiny town between Jacksonville and Gainesville one of only two "traffic traps" nationwide and even placed an attention-getting billboard outside the limits of the town to warn drivers to slow down before entering.

Now Waldo is facing a scandal following allegations that the town victimizes motorists in

order to turn a profit. Two police chiefs have been suspended, the police department has rebelled and the state is investigating possible wrongdoing.

The situation simmered for years until last month, when Police Chief Mike Szabo was suspended on Aug. 12, apparently in response to an investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement into suspected improprieties in the way officers write tickets.

The issue then burst into the open two weeks later at a Waldo City Council meeting, when a group of police officers said they had been ordered by Szabo to write at least 12 tickets per 12-hour shift or face repercussions.

The officers also leveled allegations at the Aug. 26 meeting against Cpl. Kenneth Smith, who had been picked to fill in for

Szabo. The officers complained that Smith had, among other things, mishandled evidence. The city council then suspended Smith.

Not surprisingly, things are tense at the tiny stucco storefront office that serves as Waldo City Hall. On Friday morning, Mayor Louie Davis and City Manager Kim Worley met in a small cluttered office to discuss the controversy, slamming a door shut with a "no comment" when a reporter walked in seeking information.

Waldo has long had a reputation as a speed trap, but the allegations made by the police officers were particularly stunning since ticket quotas are illegal under Florida law.

In 2013, Waldo's seven police officers filed 11,603 traffic citations, according to records obtained by the Gainesville Sun



JASON DEAREAN/AP

**A driver enters Waldo, Fla., where motorists can encounter many different speed limits in a roughly 2-mile stretch of road.**

newspaper. That compares with 25,461 citations in 2013 for much larger Gainesville, which has 300 officers and 128,000 residents, including thousands of college students.

The fines paid by motorists are a big money-maker. According to the city's 2013 budget, about half of its \$1 million in revenue came from "court fines" from tickets issued.

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## NATION

# Buyer's remorse?

## Some state lawmakers backpedal on adoption of student testing standards

By KIMBERLY HEFLING  
AND JULIE CARR SMYTH  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Millions of students will sit down at computers this year to take new tests rooted in the Common Core standards for math and reading, but policymakers in many states are having buyer's remorse.

The fight to repeal the standards has heated up in Ohio, with state Rep. Andy Thompson, a Republican, saying it's kind of "creepy" this whole thing landed in Ohio with all the things prepackaged."

It's playing out in Louisiana, where Gov. Bobby Jindal is in a nasty feud involving his former ally, education Superintendent John White. Jindal has sued the Obama administration, accusing Washington of illegally manipulating federal grant money and regulations to force states to adopt the Common Core education standards.

The standards were scrapped this year in Indiana, and Oklahoma. Governors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Missouri have signed legislation to reconsider the standards, even though they still will be used in those three states this fall.

Many states, Thompson and Jindal base their opposition on federal support of the standards. But states led the Common Core movement that really took off in 2009, and that effort was voluntary.

The administration offered incentives to states to adopt college- and career-ready standards, and Common Core fit the bill. The

incentives included cash grants and permission to ignore parts of the much-maligned No Child Left Behind law.

The standards emphasize critical thinking and spell out what reading and math skills students should grasp at each grade level, while leaving how those skills are mastered up to districts and states. The hope was that higher standards shared across state lines would allow for shared resources, comparable student performance measures and smoother school-to-school transitions for children who move, such as military kids.

Nearly every state adopted the standards.

### Debate spreads

The debate over Common Core has spilled into the national political realm. Among potential GOP presidential candidates in 2016, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush supports the standards, Jindal, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul do not.

Teachers' unions, historically aligned with the Democrats, endorsed the standards and helped develop them. But they now complain about botched efforts to put them in place and say it's unfair to use Common Core-based assessments in new teacher evaluation systems rolling out in much of the United States.

The issue has gotten pulled into a general anti-testing backlash in parts of the country. To ease the testing concerns, Education Secretary Arne Duncan recently said he would allow states to delay using students' test scores in



KYLE ROBERTSON, COLUMBUS (OHIO) DISPATCH/AP

Hearings on legislation to repeal Common Core academic standards are held Aug. 18 in the House Finance Hearing Room at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

teacher evaluation systems.

"What really has happened is that this has become a politicized issue and it's become an ideological symbol, interestingly, on both sides," said Patrick McGuinn, a political science professor at Drew University. He said the standards and the assessments designed under them are generally considered acceptable or of high quality.

### Perplexed parents

Far from the political discourse, American classrooms continue to be transformed by the use of the standards, with new curricula developed and teachers trained. Some parents are perplexed by the new ways their children are completing their lessons.

Supporters like former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a Republican who helped lead the governors' group that identified the goals set by Common Core, say politics and mistrusts have hijacked a needed and effective education overhaul.

"It's just a situation that I don't think should have become political, which has become political, toxic, and I don't really know how to decontaminate that," Per-

due said.

A PDK/Gallup Poll released Aug. 20 found a dramatic change in the number of people aware of the standards. Last year, two-thirds of those surveyed said they'd never heard of the standards. This year, 81 percent said they had — and in 10 said they oppose them.

Daniel A. Domenech, executive director of the national organization representing school superintendents, said polling provides more evidence that it's important to "slow down to get it right."

"This school year marks a milestone. This coming spring, roughly 11 million students in more than half the states are expected to take new computer-based assessments aligned with Common Core standards that were developed by two groups of states to replace the standardized tests that had been used.

States can choose the assessment to be used, but those decisions have not been without controversy. Some states, including Georgia and Michigan, that originally joined the consortiums have dropped out and opted for different tests.

## Study: Adults eating better, except those who are poor

By LINDSEY TANNER  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Americans' eating habits have improved — except among the poor, which is evidence of a widening wealth gap when it comes to diet. Yet even among wealthier adults, food choices remain far from ideal, a 12-year study found.

On an index of healthy eating where a perfect score is 110, U.S. adults averaged just 40 points in 1999-2000, climbing steadily to 47 points in 2009-10, the study found.

Scores for low-income adults were lower than the average and barely budged during the years studied. They averaged almost four points lower than those for high-income adults at the beginning; the difference increased to

more than six points in 2009-10.

Higher scores mean greater intake of heart-healthy foods including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats, and a high score means a low risk of obesity and chronic illnesses including heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Low scores mean people face greater chances for developing those ailments.

The widening rich-poor diet gap is disconcerting and "will have important public health implications," said study co-author Dr. Frank Hu, of the Harvard School of Public Health. Diet-related chronic diseases such as diabetes have become more common in Americans in general, and especially among the poor, he noted.

"Declining diet quality over time may actually widen the gap between the poor and the rich," Hu said.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers developed the healthy diet index used for the study. It is similar to federal dietary guidelines but features additional categories including red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol.

The study authors used that index along with government estimates on trans fat intake to evaluate information in 1999-2010 national health surveys that included interviews with people about their eating habits.

The results were published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

## Chicago students to see more safety guards

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago children walked past even more guards on their first day of school than last year, when concerns about safety prompted the city to line the streets with 1,200 adults every day.

Thanks to an infusion of \$1 million by America's third-largest city, another 100 "Safe Passage" workers will be on routes that students walk through crime-ridden neighborhoods to get to school. After Gov. Pat Quinn pledged \$10 million, officials said another 600 of the workers would be hired and on the streets over the next several weeks.

When they're all in place, said Jaden Chou, the chief safety and security officer for the Chicago Public Schools, more workers will be assigned along existing routes, and some routes will be extended farther from schools. The district has added 27 schools to the 93 for which there will be Safe Passage workers.



M. SPENCER GREEN/AP

Keisha Powe stands guard Tuesday, watching her son Joseph Toney walk to school along a Safe Passage route as Chicago Public School community watch person.

There is far less publicity about the first day of school than a year ago, when the closure of some 50 schools by Mayor Rahm Emanuel had parents and others worried that forcing children to walk

through unfamiliar and dangerous neighborhoods to new schools would put them at greater risk of crossing gang boundaries and being caught in gang conflicts.

But there is political risk for

Emanuel, the former top aide to President Barack Obama up for reelection next year. His most talked-about potential rival, Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis, has criticized Emanuel for closing neighborhood schools and dubbed him the "murder mayor" because of the city's violence.

Any violence that occurs on a student's walk to and from school could become fodder for Lewis — or any other opponent — to use against Emanuel.

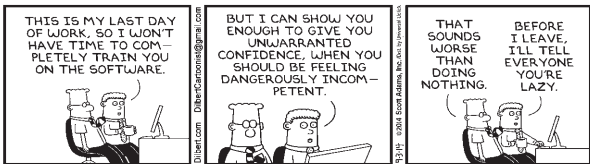
During the previous school year, the worst fears of violence against children walking to school never came to pass.

"It didn't happen, to the glory of God, and I think there were very few if anything happened to children on their way to and from school," said Bishop Larry Trotter, of the Sweet Holy Spirit Church on the city's South Side, one of several pastors who had urged Emanuel to reconsider the closings. "The mayor and his team did a wonderful job."

Frazz



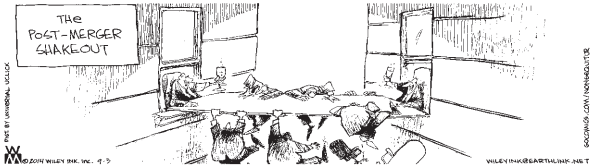
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



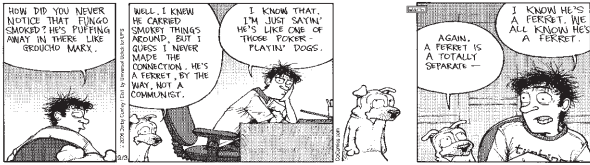
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



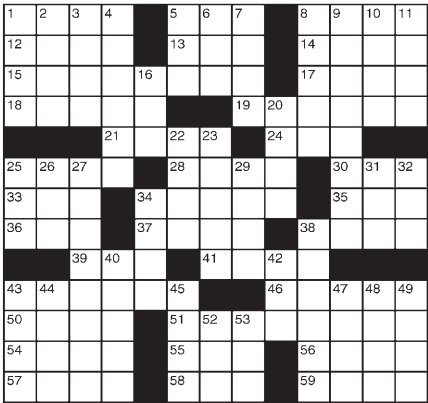
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- Obama predecessor
- Sch. org.
- Rose's love, in an old play
- Largest continent
- Island adornment
- Chest muscles
- Threw under the bus
- Hearty quaffs
- Regions
- Elf
- Factory pallet
- Clowed down
- Apple co-founder
- Taverns
- By way of
- Rd.
- Maximum
- Goof up
- Bankroll
- "— It Romantic?"
- Leading man?
- Ram's mate
- Ooze
- Alpaca's cousin
- Valerie Harper role
- Cartoonist's supply
- Lamented
- Experts
- Writer Buscaglia
- Symbol of thinness
- Lord's mate

## DOWN

- Rum cake
- PC operator
- Location
- Really annoy
- Thickness
- Ball prop
- Helps
- In two places at once?
- Bought
- "Law & Order: SVU" actor
- Being, to Brutus
- Request
- History
- Wading bird
- Curses
- Wapiti
- Any day now
- Mandible
- Eggs
- Festooned
- Ceremony
- Savings plan acronym
- Branch
- Barrower's burden
- Plant lice
- Wimpy
- Historic period
- Test tube
- Erstwhile Peruvian
- Competent
- Medley
- Showroom sample
- Mideast gulf
- Conger, for one
- Stir-fry pan

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 9-3

## CRYPTOQUIP

KVVKSBUIFP, SYOUXEBXSCBC

TSXA VKSOC AJCI ZB HBS P

AJCOEKF, ZBEKICB IYBP KFF

YKHB TSBUEY YXSUC.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO FIND DIET-FRIENDLY MEALS ON THE MENU, CHECK YOUR LO-CAL LISTINGS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals L



## WORLD

# Food costs rising in Ebola-hit countries

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — Food in countries hit by Ebola is getting more expensive and will become scarcer because many farmers won't be able to access fields, a U.N. food agency warned Tuesday.

An Ebola outbreak in West Africa has killed more than 1,500 people, and authorities have cordoned off entire towns in an effort to halt the virus' spread. Surrounding countries have closed land borders, many airlines have suspended flights to and from the affected countries and seaports are seeing less traffic, restricting food imports to the hardest-hit countries. Those countries — Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone — all rely on grain from abroad to feed their people, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

In one market in the Liberian capital of Monrovia, the price of cassava root, a staple in many

West African diets, was up 150 percent.

“These latest price spikes are effectively putting food completely out of their reach.”

Vincent Martin  
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

is coordinating the agency's response to the crisis. “Now these latest price spikes are effectively putting food completely out of their reach.”

The U.N. has said 1.3 million people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will need help feeding themselves in coming months.

The situation looks likely to worsen, the FAO said, because restrictions on movement are preventing laborers from accessing farms, and the harvest of rice and corn is set to begin in a few weeks.



B.K. BANGASH/AP

Supporters of Muslim cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri camp out in front of Pakistan's parliament building in Islamabad on Tuesday. Lawmakers held an emergency session over the political crisis rolling the country as thousands of protesters called for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign.

## Pakistani lawmakers address unrest

Parliament holds emergency session amid protester calls for prime minister's resignation

By REBECCA SANTANA AND MUNIR AHMED  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's lawmakers held an emergency session Tuesday over the political crisis rolling the country as thousands of anti-government protesters remained camped out in front of the parliament building, demanding Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resign.

The session of both houses — the National Assembly and the Senate — is an attempt to rally support behind the prime minister, who is facing the biggest threat to his tenure since he took office a little more than a year ago.

Anti-government demonstrators took to cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan and fiery cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri converged on the capital in mid-August. The protests turned violent this past weekend, when clashes between the demonstrators and police left three people dead and hundreds injured.

Now, thousands of protesters, who broke through a fence surrounding the parliament, are camped out on the lawn in front of the building and have essentially taken over Constitution Avenue which runs past the country's

main institutions of power, including the Supreme Court and the prime minister's office.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan criticized the demonstrators during the opening speech of the session, as the prime minister sat quietly by his side.

“This is a revolt against Pakistan,” the interior minister said. “They are fake revolutionaries, and they are terrorists.”

It was not immediately clear if Sharif, who has repeatedly vowed not to resign, would address the session later Tuesday. The session is expected to last a week.

One by one, all the speakers threw their support behind Sharif, including the leader of the main opposition party. Aitzaz Ahsan from the Pakistan People's Party criticized Sharif at times, saying that he should have shown better judgement in dealing with the protesters' concerns earlier and saying that vote-rigging had taken place during the May 2013 election.

He also joked about how the political crisis would make Sharif appear in parliament more often, a dig at what many view as the prime minister's arrogance and failure to engage with anything more than a small circle of close advisers.

However, most importantly, Ahsan gave Sharif his whole-hearted assurances that his party backed the government.

“No one can force you to resign as all of us are fully backing you,” he assured Sharif. “It is illegal and unconstitutional to demand the prime minister's resignation like this.”

Khan and Qadri allege widespread fraud in the May 2013 election that brought Sharif to power in a landslide victory. International observers did not find any indication to back up their claims of vote-rigging.

The two have been addressing their followers frequently, urging them to come to the streets to push out Sharif from power. They both claimed they would lead a 1 million-person march on to the capital, but the largest crowds have seen only tens of thousands of people.

Most of Khan's supporters have already resigned from parliament but one of his former top allies, Javed Hashmi, appeared in parliament Tuesday, entering to a standing ovation. Hashmi broke with Khan over a decision by the party to march on the prime minister's house, a move that sparked violence Saturday evening.

## Clashes between Islamist militiamen, rivals in Libya kill 31

By MAAMOUN YOUSSEF  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Fierce clashes in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi between Islamist militiamen and rival forces loyal to a renegade general have killed 31 fighters on both sides, a security official said Tuesday.

The fighting erupted late Monday, when forces and fighter jets belonging to Gen. Khalifa Haftar pounded positions of Islamist mi-

litias called The Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council, the official said.

The hourslong clashes concentrated around the city's Benina airport and the militiamen responded with artillery, added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Haftar's side lost 20 fighters while the militiamen had 11 killed, and 36 fighters in all were wounded, the official said. Several

of the wounded were reported to be in critical condition.

Libya is witnessing its worst spasm of violence since former dictator Moammar Gadhafi was toppled and killed in 2011.

The country's divisions are deeply rooted in rivalries between Islamists and non-Islamists, as well as powerful tribal and regional allegiances between groups who quickly filled the power vacuum after Gadhafi's ouster. Successive

transitional governments have failed to control the militias.

Fighting in recent months has mostly engulfed the capital, Tripoli, and also Benghazi, the country's second-largest city.

The militias in control of the capital, operating under an umbrella group called the Dawn of Libya, have also taken control of the U.S. Embassy compound, a week after they drove out rival militias. A State Department of-

ficial said the compound “remains secure.”

On Tuesday, Libya's official news agency said calm returned to Tripoli, with some banks resuming work and shops and bakeries reopening.

In a second chance on Monday, Libya's newly elected parliament asked the country's prime minister who resigned last week, Abdullah al-Thinni, to form a new government.

## WIRED WORLD



CHRIS O'BRIEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

## Brain science, video games converge in neurogaming

By CHRIS O'BRIEN  
Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Lat Ware pauses to straighten his jacket and to organize his chaotic mind. For Ware, who has attention deficit disorder, standing in the halls of a gaming conference as people rush by can feel like being in a hurricane of humanity.

He takes a deep breath before he steps up to a passer-by to pose the question he has already asked at least 100 times today.

"Excuse me," Ware said. "Would you like to throw trucks with your mind?"

The target's face goes through a range of expressions, trying to formulate the appropriate response to the fantastical offer before settling on an uncertain reply.

"Um, suuuuuure ..." said Natalia Veselova, who had come from Russia to attend the Game Developers Conference in March.

Ware, 29, is recruiting people to try to the new video game he has developed. He leads Veselova to a table, sits her down in front of a laptop next to other players and explains his game, "Throw Trucks With Your Mind."

He slides a headset onto her that reads brain waves that indicate levels of calm and focus. Players must maximize both states of mind by concentrating on a single thought, which then allows them to pick up and hurl objects at opponents.

"It's an ultraviolent, meditative, competitive game," Ware deadpans.

For several minutes, Veselova struggles to block out distractions and to relax. Just when she seems ready to give up, pink and blue bars on the screen begin to spike. A swirling beam of light shoots from the hand of her avatar toward a rock in the middle of the screen that wiggles, rises and then goes flying toward an opponent, narrowly missing.

Her eyes go wide, and then a smile spreads across her face. Ware steps back with his own look of satisfaction.

The development of "Throw Trucks" places Ware on a frontier

where brain science and video game developers have just begun to cross paths. The emerging field has been dubbed "neurogaming."

Although the market for neurogaming is lightly populated now, the neuroscience industry is hoping that such games could be a catalyst that turns brain wave-reading gadgets into mainstream consumer products.

For Ware, though, the achievement is far more personal. "Throw Trucks" is the realization of an idea he first got as a teenager when he underwent an experimental treatment for ADD that involved streaming his brain waves into a computer. As he sat in a doctor's office, he began to wonder:

"If my brain waves can be fed into a computer, so I can learn to manipulate them, what else could I do with them?"

Having ADD means that Ware's brain believes at times that every single thing is demanding his full attention. Over the years, Ware has learned to summon all his energy to focus on one thing that actually matters at that moment.

Conversely, he can then become so obsessed with that thing, it becomes impossible for anyone or anything else to get his attention. That battle with his mind frequently leaves him exhausted and sometimes depressed.

"As a disorder, ADD does not go away," Ware said. "You just learn the most efficient way to manage it."

Growing up in Chapel Hill, N.C., Ware seemed to struggle with social relationships. After being held back one year in kindergarten, he was diagnosed with the disorder. He would try various drugs like Ritalin that would help him focus, but would leave him foggy and would sap his creativity.

Ware's parents kept researching other strategies, and when he was a teenager, they heard about a new treatment called neurofeedback therapy. The idea is to let patients watch a computer screen that displays brain waves so they can learn to slow down or speed up their brain waves to achieve greater calm and focus.

He took only a few treatments, in part because it was expensive — the equipment back then cost providers thousands of dollars. But like so many other things in technology, the cost of brain wave-reading sensors has plummeted.

For his game, Ware uses a brain wave headset made by NeuroSky Inc., of San Jose. The gadget is roughly the same weight and shape as a headset that someone might use to make a phone call. Except instead of a microphone,

a curved, plastic arm rests lightly on a person's forehead to measure brain wave activity.

Johnny Liu, director of NeuroSky's developer program, was attending his first gaming conference three years ago when he was approached by Ware, who wanted to discuss his "Throw Trucks" idea.

Ware had graduated in 2007 from DigiPen Institute of Technology in Redmond, Wash., where he majored in computer science with a specialty in video game development.

He told Liu that the time was right for his brain wave video game, but he couldn't get any interest from venture capitalists.

Liu suggested that Ware raise the money through the crowd-funding platform Kickstarter. Ware launched a campaign Feb. 13, 2013. He had six weeks to persuade people

to donate \$40,000 so he could hire the programmers and designers he needed to fully develop the game.

No matter how "Throw Trucks With Your Mind" sells, though, Ware has made his mark. The game attracted the attention of Charles Huang, one of the creators of the "Guitar Hero" video game.

"A lot of times, the most interesting products come from people with a deep personal passion for them," Charles Huang, one of the creators of the "Guitar Hero" video game, said.

"A lot of times, the most interesting products come from people with a deep personal passion for them," Huang said. "There was something about him and his story that drew me to this. I don't pick things like this just because of their commercial potential. I pick them because they are great products."

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ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING  
Stars and Stripes



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teens caught tagging Civil War memorial

**NY** NEW YORK — Police said a pair of spray-paint wielding teenagers were caught "red-handed" vandalizing Manhattan's famed Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Monument with crude faces and curse words.

The New York Police Department said officers found the 17- and 15-year-old defiling the 114-year-old ode to the Civil War's Union Army about 3:20 a.m. Thursday.

The teens are charged with multiple counts of felony criminal mischief. Police said they've been in trouble before for graffiti-related offenses.

## Girl, 9, dies in sand hole collapse at beach

**OR** LINCOLN CITY — A 9-year-old girl died when a sand hole collapsed on her at a beach, police in the Oregon coastal town of Lincoln City said.

Firefighters and police responded shortly after 5 p.m. Friday and found a group of people trying to dig the girl out, Lt. Jerry Palmer said. Officers helped extract the girl, who was identified Saturday as Isabel Grace Franks, from a large hole.

Police began CPR after Isabel was pulled free, unconscious and not breathing. North Lincoln Fire and Rescue and ambulance medical teams took over CPR, and Isabel was taken to a hospital.

Witnesses told KATU-TV that the girl helped dig the hole along with her siblings and other friends at the beach, behind the Seagull Beach Front Motel. The sand caved after the girl sat down in the hole to see how deep it was.

## Armored truck crashes; bags of money spill out

**RI** CRANSTON — Police said an armored truck overturned on a Rhode Island highway, spilling bags of money that quickly drew passers-by.

Deputy Fire Chief Paul Valletta Jr. told The Providence Journal that the Garda truck was southbound on Route 10 on Saturday afternoon when the driver lost control. The truck swerved off the highway and onto the grass and rolled on its left side.

Money stored in clear plastic bags and white canvas duffel bags flew out of the truck.

As state police watched, money was transferred to a second Garda truck that was called in.

Valletta said passers-by swarmed to the scene, but it wasn't clear if they took any money.

## 18th-century brewery remains discovered

**VA** WILLIAMSBURG — College students have always had a taste for beer, and archaeologists have uncovered new evidence at the College of William and Mary to prove it.

The remains of what is likely an 18th-century on-campus brewery were discovered just outside of the nation's oldest college build-



ADAM LAU, THE KNOXVILLE (TENN.) NEWS SENTINEL/AP

## Celebrating Boomsday

**Fireworks explode over the Henley Street Bridge during the annual Boomsday celebration in Knoxville, Tenn., on Saturday. The fireworks event, considered one of the largest in the southern United States, also features live music and attracts more than 325,000 spectators every year.**

ing when campus officials were looking to widen a sidewalk.

School officials said the discovery near the Wren Building will allow them to tell a broader story about campus life in the Colonial era that involved the interaction of slaves, Native Americans, faculty and students.

If known about by previous archaeologists, the brewery was never included in historical records or artist renderings. Instead, attention was generally focused on the main historic buildings like the Wren.

## Police chief accused of threatening a suspect

**IL** CHICAGO — A decorated Chicago police commander who rose through the ranks

even as he was the subject of numerous misconduct allegations appeared in court Thursday, facing felony charges that he stuck his gun down the throat of a suspect and threatened to kill him.

Shortly after his arrest, Glenn Evans, 52, was formally charged with aggravated battery and official misconduct and later released on his own recognizance. Last week, Evans was stripped of his police powers and relieved of his service weapon.

Evans, a valued member of Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy's top management team as district commander of one of Chicago's most violent neighborhoods, did not speak at Thursday's hearing, and neither he nor his attorneys talked to reporters afterward. But his attorney, Laura

Morask, vehemently denied the allegations, calling the investigation "incredibly flawed."

## Woman delivers baby boy in a parking lot

**UT** OREM — A woman who couldn't quite make it to a Provo hospital ended up delivering a baby boy in an Orem parking lot last week.

The Daily Herald reported that Benjamin Norman Anderson was born Monday in the family minivan while his two older sisters looked on.

Kelly Anderson told the newspaper that her husband, Mike, was rushing to the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center when her water broke. She said her husband pulled over, called 911

## THE CENSUS

# 22

The number of votes that prevented an Oklahoma Democrat from becoming the state's first transgender lawmaker.

Sophia, 48, an Army veteran, lost 990 to 968 in a primary runoff for a state House seat. Gender didn't play a big role on the campaign trail, according to both candidates. That's also a nod to the quirky 88th legislative district, home to Oklahoma City's LGBT community. The district boasts a history of recent barrier-breakers. Kay Floyd, a Democrat vacating the seat to run for state Senate, became Oklahoma's first openly lesbian lawmaker when she was elected in 2012.



and was on the phone with the dispatcher while she pushed.

The family spent a brief time at the hospital before returning home.

## Croc that bit 2 people dies during capture

**FL** CORAL GABLES — An American crocodile that bit two swimmers in a South Florida canal has died.

Wildlife officials say the croc, named Pancho, died Friday morning while fighting capture by two trappers.

Florida Fish and Wildlife spokesman Jorge Pino told the Miami Herald that the 12-foot, 300-pound crocodile died on shore after being retained. Pino said the carcass was taken to a state facility for evaluation.

The hunt for Pancho attracted a half-dozen trappers.

The crocodile bit two swimmers who jumped into the canal, which runs through the Gables by the Sea community, on Aug. 24.

## Man accidentally shoots self during traffic stop

**CO** COLORADO SPRINGS — Colorado Springs police said a man who was fumbling with a gun during a traffic stop accidentally shot himself.

The Gazette reported that an officer pulled Gerald Morris, 22, over in the northeastern part of the city early Sunday. The officer said he saw the driver's side door open and heard a gunshot before the man fell out of the car and he said he had shot himself.

Morris was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries, but police have not said where he was shot.

He was arrested on suspicion of drug possession.

From wire reports



## FACES

# Inquiries begin in nude celebrity photo leaks

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY  
The Associated Press

The FBI said it was addressing allegations that online accounts of several celebrities, including Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, had been hacked, leading to the posting of their nude photographs online.

The agency did not say Monday what actions it was taking to investigate who was responsible for posting naked photos of Lawrence and other stars. Apple said Monday it was looking into whether its online photo-sharing service had been hacked to obtain the intimate images.

Lawrence, a three-time Oscar nominee who won for her role in "Silver Linings Playbook," contacted authorities after the images began appearing Sunday. Naked images purporting to be of other female stars were also posted, although the authenticity of many couldn't be confirmed. The source of the leak was unclear.

"This is a flagrant violation of privacy," Lawrence's publicist Liz Mahoney wrote in a statement. "The authorities have been contacted and will prosecute anyone who posts the stolen photos of



DAN STEINBERG, INVISION/AP

**A publicist for Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, above, said the actress contacted authorities after nude photos of her were apparently stolen and posted online. The FBI said it was addressing allegations that accounts of several celebrities were hacked.**

Jennifer Lawrence."

The FBI said it was "aware of the allegations concerning computer intrusions and the unlaw-

## Celebs frequent targets for hackers

The FBI has investigated previous leaks of nude celebrity images, including leaks involving Scarlett Johansson, Mila Kunis, Christina Aguilera and footage of television sports reporter Erin Andrews in a Tennessee hotel room. Those cases resulted in convictions.

Private information and images of celebrities are frequent targets for hackers. Last year, a site posted credit reports, Social Security numbers and other financial info on celebrities, including Jay Z and wife Beyoncé, Mel Gibson, Ashton Kutcher and many others.

Johansson, Kunis and Aguilera had accounts hacked by a Florida man, Christopher

Chaney, who used publicly available information to hack into the email accounts of more than 50 people in the entertainment industry.

"I have been truly humiliated and embarrassed," Johansson said in a tearful videotaped statement played in court at Chaney's sentencing in December 2012.

"That feeling of security can never be given back and there is no compensation that can restore the feeling one has from such a large invasion of privacy," Aguilera wrote in a statement before Chaney's sentencing.

— The Associated Press

ful release of material involving high profile individuals, and is addressing the matter."

"Any further comment would be inappropriate at this time," spokeswoman Laura Emiliver wrote in a statement.

Apple Inc. spokeswoman Natalie Kerris said the company was investigating whether any iCloud

accounts had been tampered with, but she did not give any further details.

"We take user privacy very seriously and are actively investigating this report," she said.

Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead also confirmed that nude photos of her were posted online.

"To those of you looking at

photos I took with my husband years ago in the privacy of our home, hope you feel great about yourselves," Winstead posted on Twitter. Winstead, who starred in "Final Destination 3" and "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," wrote that she thought the images had been destroyed.

"Knowing those photos were deleted long ago, I can only imagine the creepy effort that went into this," Winstead wrote.

How widespread the hacking of celebrities' photos was is not immediately clear. Some of the images were quickly denounced as fakes.

Some cybersecurity experts speculated that hackers might have obtained a cache of private celebrity images by exploiting weaknesses in an online image-sharing platform.

"It is important for celebrities and the general public to remember that images and data no longer just reside on the device that captured it," security researcher Ken Westin wrote in a blog post Monday. "Once images and other data are uploaded to the cloud, it becomes much more difficult to control who has access to it, even if we think it is private."

# Chris Brown pleads guilty to assault outside DC hotel

BY BEN NUCKOLS  
The Associated Press

Chris Brown pleaded guilty on Tuesday to hitting a man outside a Washington hotel, an assault that occurred while the singer was on probation for attacking his then-girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault and was sentenced to time served. He spent two days in a District of Columbia jail in this case.

The singer was arrested in October. The victim told police Brown hit him after he tried to get in a picture the singer was taking with two women.

Brown, 24, previously pleaded not guilty. His trial had been set for April, but it was delayed.

At the time of his Washington arrest, Brown was on probation in a felony assault case in California for attacking his then-girlfriend, pop star Rihanna, hours before the Grammy Awards. Because Brown was still on probation, the outcome of his Washington case had potential repercussions in California. During a court hearing in May, a Los Angeles judge sentenced Brown to serve an additional 131 days in jail. He was released in June.

Brown's attorney, Danny Onorato, argued that Brown had been punished extensively for the assault, noting the time he spent in jail in California and four months he spent receiving individual counseling after his probation was revoked.

"To say that he's been punished



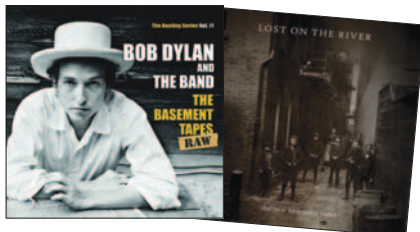
MANUEL BALCE CENTA/AP

**R&B singer Chris Brown was sentenced to time served (two days) for hitting a man outside a Washington hotel while he was on probation for attacking then-girlfriend Rihanna.**

severely in this matter is an understatement," Onorato said. He said Brown's career has been on hold for nearly a year and he wanted to take responsibility for his actions so he could go back to work, including a tour in support of a new album.

Brown spoke briefly, saying: "I would like to say to the court that I'm sorry." He did not comment as he left court, swarmed by photographers and a handful of fans.

Brown's bodyguard, Christopher Hollosy, also was charged in the Washington scuffle. He was accused of being the second person after Brown to strike Parker Adams outside the St. Hotel. Hollosy was convicted of misdemeanor assault in April. He has not been sentenced.



## Cleaning up the 'Basement'

### Restored recordings with The Band to debut

Bob Dylan's famous recordings with the group that became The Band will be released in a newly restored CD set in November.

"Bob Dylan's The Basement Tapes Complete: The Bootleg Series Vol. 11" was compiled from restored original tapes, many found only recently, according to Columbia Records/Legacy Recordings. The collection will include a six-CD set and a two-CD set dubbed "Raw." Both will be released on Nov. 4. Columbia also plans to issue "The Basement Tapes Raw" as a three-LP set. The recordings were made following the singer's 1966 motorcycle accident. Dylan, now 73, joined the future members of The Band, Robbie Robertson, Rick Danko, Richard Manuel, Garth Hudson and later Levon Helm, in the basement of a small house in West Saugerties, N.Y., and taped more than 100 songs.

From Bloomberg News

### New album of lost Dylan songs on Nov. 11

"Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes," an ambitious new project in which a few contemporary musicians have completed unfinished songs by Bob Dylan nearly half a century old, now has a release date: Nov. 11.

A video for one of the newly minted songs, "Nothing To It" — a lyric video incorporating Dylan's handwritten lyrics — premiered recently on Vevo.

The album is a collaboration among producer-musician T Bone Burnett and singer-songwriters Elvis Costello, Mumford & Sons' Marcus Mumford, My Morning Jacket's Jim James, Carolina Chocolate Drops' Rhiannon Giddens and Dawes' Taylor Goldsmith.

The team has taken lyrics that Dylan wrote in 1967 while working in upstate New York in seclusion with members of the Band and set them to music.

From the Los Angeles Times

## Carrie Underwood announces pregnancy

Country star Carrie Underwood and NHL player Mike Fisher chose the Labor Day holiday to announce they are expecting their first child.

Underwood and Fisher posted the announcement on their social media accounts on Monday. Underwood's publicist confirmed the couple will be expecting their first child in the spring.

Underwood, 31, shot to fame after winning "American Idol." She has won six Grammys and sold more than 15 million albums worldwide. She was the first woman to twice win the Academy of Country Music's entertainer of the year award.

Fisher, a 34-year-old center for the Nashville Predators, is recovering from a ruptured left Achilles tendon and is expected to miss the start of the season.

## Children's poems by Cannon due in March

Nick Cannon has been keeping a notebook for much of his life, and next year we'll get to see some of the entries.

The entertaining and record producer is working on a book of poems for children.

Scholastic announced Tuesday that Cannon's "Neon Aliens Eat My Homework and Other Poems" will be published in March 2015.

Cannon also has a children's book scheduled for October, "Roc and Roe: Two Boys of Christmas," inspired by the twins he had with his wife, Mariyah Carter. The couple is reportedly estranged.

From The Associated Press

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Obama rekindles push for higher wage

By JIM KUHNENNS  
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — President Barack Obama renewed his push for Congress to raise the U.S. minimum wage Monday in a buoyant accounting of the economy's "revving" performance, delivered on behalf of Democrats opening their fall campaigns for the mid-term congressional elections.

"America deserves a raise," he told a union crowd in Milwaukee, vowing to keep a hard sell on Congress in much the way he once courted his wife. "I just wore her down," he cracked.

Timing his push to Labor Day, the traditional start of the autumn campaign, Obama aggressively drew attention to recent economic gains, setting aside past caution on that subject.

"By almost every measure the American economy and American workers are better off than when I took office," he said, rattling off a string of improving

economic indicators even while acknowledging not all people are benefiting. "The engines," he said, "are revving a little louder."

It was, at least indirectly, a pep talk for Democrats facing tough races in a nation still gripped with

economic anxieties. The emphasis on the minimum wage is designed to draw campaign contrasts with Republicans, many of whom maintain that an increase would hurt small businesses and slow down hiring. No one expects Congress to act on it before the November elections.

Despite the absence of a federal increase, 13 states raised their minimum wages at the beginning of this year. Those states have added jobs at a faster pace

than those that did not raise the wage, providing a counterpoint to a Congressional Budget Office report earlier this year that projected that a higher minimum wage of \$10.10 an hour could cost the nation 500,000 jobs.

Until now, Obama and his White House aides had been reluctant to draw too much attention to positive economic trends, worried that some may prove illusory or that, even if they hold, many working Americans continue to live on the edge of poverty and take no comfort in the upswing.

But White House officials believe it is time to highlight recent improvements, in part to strengthen a difficult political environment for Democrats and to counter public perceptions that are eroding the president's public approval. Officials say Obama's most compelling case is to compare the economy now with the one he inherited in 2009 in the aftermath of a near-Wall Street meltdown.

The White House is encourag-

ing Democrats to draw attention to the recovery as they head into the November mid-term elections.

In an August memo to House and Senate Democrats, Obama's top two economic advisers underscored the positive news: more than 200,000 jobs created per month for six consecutive months, a six-year high in auto sales, second-quarter economic growth that exceeded expectations and an expanding manufacturing sector.

The unemployment rate stands at 6.2 percent, dropping 1.1 points over the past year, and the stock market has nearly tripled in five years.

Even so, there is still significant weakness in the labor market, underscored by the long-term unemployed. Labor participation has dropped. Real hourly wages fell from the first half of 2013 to the first half of 2014 for all income groups, except for a 2-cent increase for the lowest income level, according to the liberal Economic Policy Institute.

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates   |                |
|--|----------------|
| Euro costs (Sept. 3)   | \$1.3463       |
| Dollar buys Sept. 3  | €0.7428        |
| British pound (Sept. 3)  | \$1.6149       |
| Japanese yen (Sept. 3)   | 101.00         |
| South Korean won (Sept. 3)   | 991.00         |
| Commercial rates   |                |
| Bahrain (Dinar)  | 0.3771         |
| British pound  | \$1.6513       |
| Canada (Dollar)  | 1.0912         |
| China (Yuan)   | 6.1510         |
| Denmark (Krone)  | 6.6740         |
| China (Yuan)   | 7.1515         |
| Hong Kong (Dollar)   | \$1.3120/7.622 |
| Hungary (Forint)   | 240.71         |
| Israel (Shekel)  | 3.7555         |
| Japan (Yen)  | 105.05         |
| Kuwait (Dinar)   | 0.2850         |
| Norway (Krone)   | 6.1905         |
| Philippines (Peso)   | 43.59          |
| Poland (Zloty)   | 3.21           |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal)   | 3.7596         |
| Singapore (Dollar)   | 1.2541         |
| South Korea (Won)  | 1,018.71       |
| Switzerland (Franc)  | 0.9203         |
| Taiwan (Dollar)  | 32.11          |
| Turkey (Lira)  | 1.1765         |
| Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., Netherlands and the United Kingdom), check your local military banking facility for current rates. For interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollar-to-euro. |                |

## INTEREST RATES

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate                | 3.25 |
| Discount rate             | 4.00 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.09 |
| 3-month bill              | 0.02 |
| 30-year bond              | 3.08 |

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



## Wednesday's US temperatures

|                   |    |    |       |                  |    |    |       |                  |     |    |       |               |     |    |       |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|-----|----|-------|---------------|-----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------|-------------------|----|----|-------|------|
| City              | Hi | Lo | Wthr  | City             | Hi | Lo | Wthr  | City             | Hi  | Lo | Wthr  | City          | Hi  | Lo | Wthr  | City             | Hi | Lo | Wthr  | City              | Hi | Lo | Wthr  |      |
| Ablene, Texas     | 96 | 74 | PCldy | Chatanooga       | 92 | 70 | Cldy  | Fort Wayne       | 84  | 64 | Cldy  | Louisville    | 87  | 72 | Cldy  | Pocatello        | 80 | 42 | Cldy  | Sioux City        | 85 | 71 | PCldy |      |
| Akron, Ohio       | 82 | 62 | PCldy | Cheyenne         | 88 | 51 | Cldy  | Fresno           | 94  | 66 | Cldy  | Lubbock       | 93  | 68 | Cldy  | Portland, Maine  | 82 | 57 | Cldy  | Sioux Falls       | 83 | 69 | Cldy  |      |
| Albany, N.Y.      | 80 | 58 | PCldy | Chicago          | 86 | 70 | PCldy | Goodland         | 97  | 62 | Cldy  | Macon         | 93  | 73 | Cldy  | Portland, Ore.   | 77 | 57 | PCldy | South Bend        | 83 | 66 | Cldy  |      |
| Albuquerque       | 92 | 65 | Cldy  | Cincinnati       | 86 | 66 | Cldy  | Grand Rapids     | 85  | 65 | PCldy | Madison       | 82  | 69 | Cldy  | Pueblo           | 98 | 58 | Cldy  | Springfield, Ill. | 87 | 71 | PCldy |      |
| Allentown, Pa.    | 85 | 60 | Cldy  | Cleveland        | 82 | 64 | Cldy  | Great Falls      | 83  | 63 | Cldy  | Memphis       | 92  | 73 | Cldy  | Raleigh-Durham   | 92 | 72 | Cldy  | Springfield, Mo.  | 89 | 71 | PCldy |      |
| Anchorage         | 94 | 67 | Cldy  | Colorado Springs | 92 | 57 | Cldy  | Green Bay        | 80  | 65 | PCldy | Miami Beach   | 90  | 78 | Rain  | Reno             | 87 | 56 | Cldy  | Tallahassee       | 94 | 73 | Cldy  |      |
| Asheville         | 86 | 63 | PCldy | Columbia, S.C.   | 97 | 73 | PCldy | Greensboro, N.C. | 90  | 71 | Cldy  | Milwaukee     | 80  | 69 | Cldy  | Richmond         | 83 | 61 | PCldy | Tampa             | 91 | 76 | Cldy  |      |
| Atlanta           | 90 | 73 | PCldy | Columbus, Ga.    | 84 | 65 | Cldy  | Harrisburg       | 86  | 67 | Cldy  | Mpls-St Paul  | 83  | 72 | Cldy  | Rochester        | 81 | 59 | PCldy | Toledo            | 90 | 84 | 63    | Cldy |
| Atlantic City     | 88 | 64 | Cldy  | Concord, N.H.    | 83 | 54 | Cldy  | Hartford         | 86  | 67 | Cldy  | Missoula      | 62  | 37 | PCldy | Rockford         | 84 | 68 | PCldy | Topeka            | 93 | 76 | PCldy |      |
| Austin            | 84 | 76 | Cldy  | Corpus Christi   | 90 | 78 | Rain  | Helena           | 66  | 43 | PCldy | Mobile        | 83  | 70 | Cldy  | St. Louis        | 90 | 76 | Cldy  | Tucson            | 94 | 76 | Cldy  |      |
| Baltimore         | 88 | 68 | Cldy  | Dallas-Ft Worth  | 96 | 77 | PCldy | Honolulu         | 93  | 75 | Cldy  | Montgomery    | 95  | 73 | Cldy  | Sacramento       | 87 | 60 | Cldy  | Tulsa             | 94 | 76 | PCldy |      |
| Baton Rouge       | 93 | 74 | Cldy  | Dayton           | 84 | 66 | PCldy | Houston          | 93  | 76 | Cldy  | Nashville     | 91  | 72 | Cldy  | St. Petersburg   | 90 | 78 | PCldy | Tupelo            | 92 | 72 | Cldy  |      |
| Bilings           | 75 | 48 | PCldy | Daytona Beach    | 91 | 76 | Cldy  | Huntsville       | 92  | 70 | Cldy  | New Orleans   | 87  | 77 | Cldy  | Waco             | 93 | 75 | Cldy  | Washington        | 89 | 72 | Cldy  |      |
| Birmingham        | 93 | 73 | Cldy  | Denver           | 91 | 55 | Cldy  | Indianapolis     | 94  | 72 | Cldy  | New York City | 87  | 69 | Cldy  | Wichita Falls    | 94 | 74 | PCldy | Wilmington, Del.  | 87 | 66 | Cldy  |      |
| Bismarck          | 83 | 56 | Cldy  | Des Moines       | 85 | 74 | PCldy | Jacksonville     | 92  | 73 | Cldy  | Norfolk, Va.  | 89  | 74 | PCldy | Wilmington, N.C. | 89 | 72 | Cldy  | Yakima            | 75 | 47 | Cldy  |      |
| Boise             | 72 | 47 | Cldy  | Detroit          | 73 | 62 | Cldy  | Janeau           | 58  | 49 | Cldy  | Okla City     | 95  | 75 | Cldy  | Youngstown       | 80 | 58 | PCldy |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Boston            | 85 | 66 | Cldy  | Duluth           | 73 | 62 | Cldy  | Kansas City      | 89  | 74 | PCldy | Omaha         | 97  | 73 | Cldy  |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Bridgeport        | 83 | 63 | Cldy  | El Paso          | 98 | 72 | Cldy  | Key West         | 89  | 74 | PCldy | Orlando       | 93  | 74 | PCldy |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Brownsville       | 88 | 78 | Rain  | Elkins           | 83 | 58 | PCldy | Knoxville        | 90  | 67 | Cldy  | Pasadena      | 89  | 71 | Cldy  |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Buffalo           | 79 | 61 | Cldy  | Erie             | 79 | 64 | Cldy  | Lake Charles     | 91  | 77 | Cldy  | Penn State    | 88  | 69 | Cldy  |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Burlington, Vt.   | 78 | 59 | PCldy | Fargo            | 78 | 49 | Cldy  | Lake City        | 93  | 77 | Cldy  | Pendleton     | 72  | 49 | Cldy  |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Caribou, Maine    | 75 | 54 | Rain  | Fairbanks        | 50 | 31 | Cldy  | Lake Vegas       | 103 | 78 | Cldy  | Philadelphia  | 88  | 69 | Cldy  |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Charleston, S.C.  | 93 | 74 | PCldy | Fargo            | 81 | 62 | Cldy  | Lakeview         | 89  | 73 | Cldy  | Phoenix       | 108 | 82 | PCldy |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 88 | 64 | Cldy  | Flagstaff        | 79 | 50 | Cldy  | Lincoln          | 89  | 73 | PCldy | Pittsburgh    | 82  | 62 | PCldy |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Charlotte, N.C.   | 91 | 72 | PCldy | Flint            | 82 | 64 | PCldy | Little Rock      | 93  | 74 | Cldy  |               |     |    |       |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |
| Chicago           | 86 | 70 | PCldy | Fort Smith       | 94 | 74 | PCldy | Los Angeles      | 80  | 66 | PCldy |               |     |    |       |                  |    |    |       |                   |    |    |       |      |

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Mon, 115, Death Valley, Calif.  
Lo: Mon, 14, Fairbanks, Alaska

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

# Why fist bumps replaced hugs at camp

By RANDY HODER

**"D**on't hug the campers." That was among a handful of things that my 16-year-old son, Nathaniel, was told when he volunteered here this summer at our local YMCA. Oh, and also, "Don't let any kids sit on your lap."

He had signed up to help shepherd and supervise a gaggle of 7- and 8-year-olds from the swimming pool to the arts-and-crafts studio to the playground to the basketball court.

Since everyone knows that kids naturally like to give and get hugs, Nathaniel was presented the directive to refrain with a visual demonstration. The director of the camp showed him how, if a cute little tyke came running at him with arms wide open in expectation of a hug, he was to pivot so as to be standing sideways toward the camper, put his hand up and say, "High five!" The "high five," the director explained, was the best way to avoid torso-to-torso contact without hurting the camper's feelings.

Without anyone telling him, Nathaniel intuitively understood why this rule was being imposed. "It just made me kinda sad," he said, "that this is what the world has come to: You can't give a kid a hug."

Researchers have found myriad benefits of hugging, including lowering blood pressure, helping to alleviate feelings of loneliness and decreasing stress. Paul Zak, the director of the Center for Neuroeconomics Studies at Claremont Graduate University

and the author of "The Moral Molecule," has linked hugging to the release of oxytocin in the brain. And oxytocin, he says, is responsible for trust, empathy and other feelings that help build a stable society.

"By inhibiting hugs, you are inhibiting compassion and connection," said Zak, who makes it a personal practice to give at least eight hugs a day. "It is the most natural thing in the world."

And yet, because adults hugging children can be construed as creepy, no-hugging and no-touching policies now extend to schools, camps, sports leagues and community centers across the country. And even when there are no formal strictures in place, adults who work with kids often self-regulate because they are afraid of being sued — or, more to the point, falsely accused of child molestation.

"When I went to sleep-away camp as a kid, we hung out in our bunks, slept in each other's beds, cuddled with our counselors; it was a more innocent time," said Karen Goldberg, the director of youth and family programs at our local Y. "But times have changed. There are more lawsuits, more claims of sexual harassment and abuse. We have to be really careful."

And so they are. Imagine, for instance, that a 5-year-old camper yanks down her wet, clingy bathing suit to pee, only to have it drop around her ankles onto the floor. At our Y, the counselor in charge can't go and help her because the camper is now naked. Actually, it is two female counselors who can't help her because of the rule that

says no camper is ever to be left alone with just one. They have to try to talk her back into the suit — a feat that, as any parent of young children can attest, has roughly the same odds of success as having her try to program a supercomputer. If, ultimately, the counselors have no choice but to lend a hand, they will have to fill out a report and the Y will notify a parent so that no misunderstanding about an inadvertent touch of the tush ensues.

What is most confounding, perhaps, is that we have layered on all this caution even though our kids are no more in danger now than they ever were. As University of Texas historian Steven Mintz has pointed out, "the sexual abuse of minors is anything but a recent phenomenon."

Mintz cites, in particular, Alfred Kinsey's 1953 landmark study of female sexual behavior, in which he noted that a quarter of all girls under the age of 14 reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse — a rate, according to Mintz, that is similar to what is reported today.

There are two ways to look at this, of course: Either we are going overboard now, thanks to our litigious, hypersensitive, media-driven world. Or we should have been protecting our kids more all along.

I'm in the former camp myself. But even if you're in the latter, it's hard to argue with Nathaniel's conclusion: It's all just kinda sad.

Randy Hoder's writing has appeared in The New York Times, Time, Slate and elsewhere. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

# A cautionary note on children as protesters

By KARLA FC HOLLOWAY

**"T**he talk" has become a rite of passage. It's that moment when parents sit down with their black and brown boys to explain to them the limits of their freedoms and how their conduct in public places will not be given the same laxity as that of their white peers.

In the past months, more white colleagues and friends have shared with me their expressions of surprise and sincere condolence as they have come to realize how racialized parenting has become.

But I have a cautionary note. We cannot afford to make our children part of the spectacle. It is a risk that is not always worth the lesson. It does not always produce the result we anticipate.

I wrote about the spectacle 20 years ago in my book "Codes of Conduct":

"Early in 1981, I joined the members of my AME church in our small Michigan community as we wrapped black armbands around our children's slender arms and solemnly marched from Sunday school to the church service expressing our collective grief over the murders and disappearances of black youth in Atlanta. Their tiny figures were dwarfed as they entered the massive sanctuary, and their procession on the winter Sunday echoed for me, back to the decades-old anti-war and civil rights marches. ... We had chosen our children as a visible symbol ... branding them with our understanding of the lesson we knew they would learn despite our intervention ...

"The event was well-intentioned. ... Our purpose had been to help them understand their membership in a national community ... who cared about our common dangers. We wanted our children to know of our activist history and their legacy and to feel secure in the presence of their parents and community elders. We could not guess, nor did we anticipate, that some of them could feel dangerously vulnerable and could come to associate that vulnerability and fear with the color of their skin.

"Although our cause was not malicious, I hold all of us responsible for those whose psyches we injured that winter — those who felt just a little more exposed, a little less strong. Not all of our children come with the resilience it takes to survive color in America. ... I look back at the event in Kalamazoo knowing that today I would warn against ritualizing the insidious power of racism."

I revisit these words today as I see children carrying "Hands up, don't shoot!" signs — babies, really, who may have just learned to read, protesting the killing of an unarmed black teen.

I revisit them as I see our children on Ferguson, Mo.'s front lines with their tiny hands raised in a gesture that should never ever be a part of their realities, much less their symbol systems.

I revisit these words today when I think about how my own children read their involvement in that Kalamazoo march so differently. My 5-year-old daughter thought it a fashion statement, that the arm band matched her black patent shoes. My 4-

year-old son asked if it would help the kidnappers recognize him and if he would be next.

What we miss, when we introduce our children to this dimension of our nation's cultural and racial histories, is their human right to the evolution of their moral lives. In their young lives they can process right or wrong, not justice and injustice. We cannot expect them to parse the history the way a mature, adult thinker can do, and we must give them some unfettered time to develop their characters without fear of the ways their skin color will mark them as different.

Given the dangerous realities of racism, the time for "the talk" will certainly come soon enough. But there is also a time when we might consider giving them a moment of childhood bliss with its freedoms, its innocence, its experience — the possibilities and potentials of their futures rather than their perils.

It's extra difficult for black and brown parents. These many years and decades later, with one child blessedly here and another tragically gone, I can say it is worth our consideration to give them more time outside of the vulgar histories of racial disparities and structural inequalities.

If we can shield their joy, we may have done more to prepare them for what seems today the inevitable era of their precarious vulnerability to bias.

Karla FC Holloway, the author of "Legal Fictions: Constituting Race, Composing Literature," is the James B. Duke Professor of English, and a professor of law and African-American Studies at Duke University. This column first appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

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# OPINION

## Framers eschewed 'decider in chief' concept

BY MICKEY EDWARDS  
AND DAVID SKAGGS

**J**ust before leaving for summer recess at the end of July, the House of Representatives turned to the issue of Iraq. Throughout June, President Barack Obama had steadily increased the presence of U.S. troops in Iraq from an initial 275 to nearly 800. Military force had not yet been used, but the writing was on the wall.

So the House laid down a marker. By an overwhelming bipartisan majority (370 to 40), members affirmed their constitutional responsibility to decide whether the United States should again enter into combat in Iraq, passing a resolution that said, "The president shall not deploy or maintain United States armed forces in a sustained combat role in Iraq without specific statutory authorization."

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., one of the resolution's main sponsors, led no doubt as to its purpose. "The time to debate our re-engagement in Iraq, should it come to that, is before we're caught in the heat of the moment," he said. "Not when the first body bags come home, not when the first bombs start to fall."

The bombs have now started falling, a gruesome video of the Islamic State executing American journalist James Foley is circulating the Internet, yet Congress still has not weighed in. There is still time for clear-headed deliberation and collective judgment on a broad range of options. But that window looks to be closing fast.

What began as a small deployment of a few hundred troops to provide support and security for our embassy personnel quickly grew. On Aug. 8, the president authorized "targeted airstrikes" that he assured Congress would be "limited in ... scope and duration."

Now in a little more than two weeks the United States has waged an air war with more than 90 strikes. The mission's objectives have expanded from protecting American personnel to assisting humani-

tarian efforts to helping Iraqi forces recapture "critical infrastructure" — a dam more than 200 miles outside Baghdad.

This escalation suggests that the president's other pronouncement about the scope of U.S. military intervention in Iraq will prove more accurate than his assurances to Congress: "This is going to be a long-term project."

None of this should come as a surprise. War is inherently unpredictable, unintended consequences routine. Missions creep. American lives and treasure are put at risk. But the commander in chief should not also be the "decider in chief."

This is precisely why the Constitution's framers vested war power in the legislative branch. The elected representatives of those who will risk their lives in the fight must debate the issue and make the solemn decision about whether to enter a war. The president's job is to conduct it, once authorized. This check and balance of power and responsibility is central to the fabric of our republic and ensures that both political branches are accountable to the people.

To date, the president has acted alone, invoking "constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as commander in chief and chief executive."

The Constitution arguably permits the president to act to defend the nation and its citizens against an actual or imminent attack without prior congressional approval. U.S. combat operations in Iraq already exceed that narrow exception.

More troubling, the president's stated rationale lacks any discernible limit on U.S. combat operations going forward. Reminiscent of rhetoric used to justify military intervention in Libya three years ago, the president said recently that the United States has "a national security interest" in making sure that a "savage group [like Islamic State] ... is contained, because ultimately it can pose a threat to us."

That rhetoric, and the extent of U.S. military engagement that it implies, has rattled up in the wake of James Foley's



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said the Islamic State "can't be defeated" "without addressing that part of the organization that resides in Syria."

death and the Islamic State's continued indiscriminate and brutal attacks on civilians. According to Secretary of State John Kerry, the Islamic State "and the wickedness it represents must be destroyed." That can't be done, says Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, "without addressing that part of the organization that resides in Syria."

We take no position on those grave policy choices. But Congress must. Unless and until it does, the president lacks constitutional authority to proceed on his own.

Sad to say, Congress has often been reluctant to own up to its exclusive responsibility to decide when the country goes to war. The House resolution adopted in July was a welcome break with that reluctance.

Now, Congress and the president need to discharge their respective constitutional responsibilities. The president should immediately seek congressional authorization to continue military operations in Iraq, and Congress should reconvene to debate and vote.

We are rapidly approaching a decisive moment. The pros and cons of action can still be weighed, but the debate needs to happen now. The Constitution requires it, and the American people deserve it.

Mickey Edwards is a former congressman, R-Okla., who served as chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee. David Skaggs is a former congressman, D-Colo., who served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. They are co-chairmen of the Constitution Project's War Powers Committee. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## For sake of the party, don't renominate Romney

BY MARC A. THIESSEN

**I**n the 1991 movie "The Naked Gun 2½: The Smell of Fear," Police Lt. Frank Drebin drinks away his sorrows in a blues bar while sad music plays and the camera pans across a wall with pictures depicting the worst disasters in history: the Chicago fire ... the Hindenburg ... the Titanic ... and Michael Dukakis.

If they did a remake today, they would replace Dukakis' picture on the wall with one of another Massachusetts governor: Mitt Romney.

Talk of a Romney 2016 run is heating up. A USA Today poll shows Romney with a huge lead in Iowa, far ahead of 14 other potential GOP candidates. And after months of Shermanesque denials, Romney recently cracked the door open to another presidential bid, telling radio host Hugh Hewitt that "circumstances can change."

To which I say: Nooooo!  
Don't get me wrong, I wish Mitt Romney were president right now. And apparently so do a majority of Americans. A recent poll found that if the 2012 election were held today, Romney would beat Barack Obama by 53 percent to 44 percent. But those numbers more likely reflect buyer's remorse with Obama than a sudden longing for a Romney administration. Indeed,

**Romney was a horrible presidential candidate. He faced one of the most vulnerable incumbents in modern times — and found a way to lose.**

the very same poll showed Romney losing to Hillary Rodham Clinton by 55 percent to 44 percent — not exactly the result Republicans are looking for in 2016.

In 2012, Romney got the nomination because he was running in one of the weakest fields the GOP had ever put forward. Just as Defense Secretary Don Rumsfeld used to say that Guantanamo Bay was the "least worst" place to hold captured terrorists, Romney was like the Guantanamo Bay of candidates — the "least worst" person the GOP could nominate that year.

In 2016, Republicans have a much stronger field of potential candidates to choose from. Thanks to the GOP's sweep of state-house in recent years, there are a slew of successful governors other than Romney who could run, including Mike Pence, Bobby Jindal, Jeb Bush, John Kasich,

Chris Christie and Scott Walker. There is no need to settle for the "least worst" candidate this time around.

No doubt Romney has been vindicated since 2012. He was right about Russia, and correct when he warned that Obamacare would force millions to lose their health plans. But let's not forget that Romney was also a horrible presidential candidate. He faced one of the most vulnerable incumbents in modern times — and found a way to lose.

He made huge tactical errors — from not responding to Obama's devastating personal attacks all summer to letting Obama harness the power of data like a Bain Capital numbers-cruncher while Romney's data-mining effort crashed and burned like, well, Solyndra.

But what ultimately cost Romney the election was a lack of vision — a flaw that is uncorrectable. Romney had changed positions so often over his career that by 2012 no one knew what he really believed.

Because he presented such a blank canvas, Romney allowed Obama to paint him as an unacceptable alternative. Indeed, he often took the brush in his own hands and did Obama's job for him. Like when he told auto workers his wife "drives a couple of Cadillacs" ... or described himself as "severely conservative" (something no actual conservative would say) ... or declared that

"corporations are people, my friend" ... or offered to bet Texas Gov. Rick Perry "10 thousand bucks" ... or said "I like being able to fire people" ... or declared his immigration policy was "self-deportation" ... or announced "I'm not concerned about the very poor" ... or dismissed 47 percent of the country as a bunch of moochers "who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them."

After this series of self-inflicted wounds, little wonder that only 35 percent of Americans said they believed that Romney cared about the poor, and just 38 percent said Romney "cares about people like me." You can't win an election when most Americans think you don't care about them.

Why would Republicans want to relive that debacle? Mitt Romney is an utterly decent man who certainly would have been a much better president than Barack Obama. But he was given a golden opportunity to save the United States from a second Obama term and blew it.

Do Republicans really want to count on him to save the United States from Clinton's first term?

Marc Thiessen writes a weekly column for The Washington Post on foreign and domestic policy and contributes to the PostPartisan blog. He is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.







# MLB SCOREBOARD

| American League          |    |     |     |     | National League        |    |     |     |     |
|--------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| East Division            |    |     |     |     | West Division          |    |     |     |     |
| W                        | L  | Pct | GB  |     | W                      | L  | Pct | GB  |     |
| Baltimore                | 79 | 57  | 581 |     | Los Angeles            | 77 | 61  | 551 |     |
| New York                 | 70 | 65  | 519 | 8½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Toronto                  | 69 | 67  | 507 | 10  | Chicago                | 67 | 64  | 533 | 3   |
| Chicago                  | 65 | 69  | 483 | 11  | St. Louis              | 74 | 63  | 540 |     |
| Boston                   | 60 | 77  | 438 | 19½ | Philadelphia           | 64 | 74  | 460 | 15  |
| Central Division         |    |     |     |     | Central Division       |    |     |     |     |
| Chicago                  | 75 | 61  | 551 |     | St. Louis              | 74 | 63  | 540 |     |
| Minnesota                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | Chicago                | 67 | 64  | 533 | 3   |
| Detroit                  | 62 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | Pittsburgh             | 71 | 66  | 518 | 3   |
| Chicago                  | 65 | 65  | 513 | 13½ | Chicago                | 62 | 76  | 449 | 12½ |
| Minnesota                | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Chicago                | 62 | 76  | 449 | 12½ |
| West Division            |    |     |     |     | West Division          |    |     |     |     |
| Los Angeles              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Los Angeles            | 77 | 61  | 551 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Francisco          | 65 | 71  | 478 | 11  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | San Diego              | 57 | 80  | 416 | 19½ |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Colorado               | 55 | 83  | 399 | 22  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Colorado               | 55 | 83  | 399 | 22  |
| Twins 6, Orioles 4       |    |     |     |     | Marlins 9, Mets 6      |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Phillies 7, Braves 0     |    |     |     |     | Rays 4, Red Sox (10)   |    |     |     |     |
| Philadelphia             | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Philadelphia           | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| Atlanta                  | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | Atlanta                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| St. Louis                | 74 | 63  | 540 |     | St. Louis              | 74 | 63  | 540 |     |
| San Francisco            | 65 | 71  | 478 | 11  | San Francisco          | 65 | 71  | 478 | 11  |
| San Diego                | 57 | 80  | 416 | 19½ | San Diego              | 57 | 80  | 416 | 19½ |
| Colorado                 | 55 | 83  | 399 | 22  | Colorado               | 55 | 83  | 399 | 22  |
| Royals 4, Rangers 3      |    |     |     |     | Cardinals 5, Pirates 4 |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Rockies 10, Giants 9     |    |     |     |     | Cubs 4, Milwaukee 2    |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Padres 3, Diamondbacks 1 |    |     |     |     | Cubs 4, Brewers 2      |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Athletics 6, Mariners 1  |    |     |     |     | Nationals 6, Dodgers 4 |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Milestones               |    |     |     |     | Milestones             |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |
| Transactions             |    |     |     |     | Transactions           |    |     |     |     |
| Minnesota                | 83 | 53  | 610 |     | Minnesota              | 83 | 53  | 610 |     |
| San Diego                | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  | San Diego              | 72 | 65  | 519 | 4½  |
| Seattle                  | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  | Seattle                | 73 | 63  | 537 | 10  |
| Houston                  | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  | Houston                | 59 | 73  | 428 | 25  |
| Texas                    | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ | Texas                  | 53 | 84  | 387 | 20½ |

## MLB



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/AP

The Astros fired manager Bo Porter on Monday. In his second season, Porter was 110-190. Last season, Houston finished a franchise-worst 51-111. Tom Lawless, who worked in Houston's minor league system, was named interim manager.

## Roundup

# Cardinals take over first place in NL Central

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Matt Holliday is keeping quiet about his recent hitting surge.

However, his St. Louis teammates are more than happy to praise him after Holliday hit the go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning Monday to rally the Cardinals to a 5-4 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

St. Louis moved into sole possession of first place in the NL Central for the first time this season with its third straight win. The Cardinals are one game ahead of Milwaukee, which lost to the Chicago Cubs. Pittsburgh dropped three games back.

Kolten Wong started the three-run rally in the seventh with a two-run, pinch-hit homer to tie the game 4-4.

Holliday, who is 7-for-11 with three homers and 12 RBIs in his last three games, then followed with a single to left to bring in Jon Jay with the winning run.

"I'm OK with him going off all month long," St. Louis starting pitcher Lance Lynn said. "This (three-game stretch, I'd like for it to be like a 28- to 45-game stretch. If he can keep doing what he's doing, that's a big boost."

Holliday has driven in three runs or more in each of his last three games, the first St. Louis pitcher to do so since Scott Rolen from Aug. 11-13, 2002.

"He loves to come up with the

big hit and he got it again," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said.

Pittsburgh starter Gerrit Cole (7-5), who gave up a two-run double to Holliday in third, was also impressed.

"The guy is just unbelievable," Cole said. "He's probably the strongest human being in the world. He just continues to get it done when he needs to get it done."

Holliday drove in the game-winning run with a two-run single in the eighth inning of a 9-6 win over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday. He also had two homers in the second game of a two-night doubleheader on Saturday.

**Athletics 6, Mariners 1:** Adam Dunn provided instant pop for his struggling team, hitting a towering, two-run homer in his first at-bat for new Oakland to highlight a win over Seattle.

**Nationals 6, Dodgers 4:** Denard Span hit two of his team's four homers, Gio Gonzalez got his first victory of the second half and visiting Washington beat Los Angeles in a matchup of division leaders.

**Royals 4, Rangers 3:** Salvador Perez homered and drove in three runs, and host Kansas City snapped a three-game losing streak.

**Twins 6, Orioles 4:** Joe Mauer drove in four runs, Phil Hughes held Baltimore without an earned run over eight innings and visit-

# Porter fired by Astros

## Houston GM says team needs 'a new direction'

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros are looking toward the future, and they decided there is no time like the present to get going on that.

Entering the final month of a dismal season, the Astros fired manager Bo Porter on Monday, saying the dismissal had less to do with the team's 59-79 record than the need for "new direction" and a "unified message throughout the entire organization."

This season can't be saved, but there was no point in wasting any time in the big, upcoming rebuilding process.

Porter, in his second season with the Astros, was replaced by interim manager Tom Lawless, who worked in Houston's minor league system. Lawless' first game in charge was Tuesday night at home against the first-place Los Angeles Angels.

Bench coach Dave Trembley also was let go.

Porter joined the Astros after working as a third-base coach for

### Did you know

Houston hired former manager Bo Porter prior to last season after Porter served as third-base coach for the Nationals.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

the Washington Nationals. The Astros went a franchise-worst 51-111 in his first season for their third straight 100-loss season.

General manager Jeff Luhnow said the decision was not based on "our current level of competitiveness." The Astros entered Monday in fourth place in the AL West with the second-worst record in the league.

"I recognize that our win-loss record is largely a product of an organizational strategy for which I am responsible," Luhnow said

in a statement. "Rather, I made this decision because I believe we need a new direction in our clubhouse."

Luhnow refused repeatedly to get into more detail about why Porter was let go as he fielded questions for almost 25 minutes on Monday afternoon. He did say that he had been mulling the move for a few weeks and that he made the final decision on Sunday.

"Once you make a decision it is in everyone's best interest to move it along," he said. "It's easier to wait until the end of the season in some respects, but it's not fair to Bo and it's not fair to us."

Porter issued a statement Monday afternoon.

"During my time in Houston I dedicated myself to do everything I could to help this organization win, in the short-term and for the long-term," he said in the statement. "I am proud of what we were able to accomplish in Houston with an organization in transition. I'm gratified we were able to bring some excitement to this city as a result of our improvement from 2013 to 2014."



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

St. Louis' Jon Jay, right, celebrates as he scores past Pittsburgh catcher Russell Martin on a single by Matt Holliday during the seventh inning of Monday's game in St. Louis.

ing Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

**Tigers 12, Indians 1:** David Price bounced back from an alarming start and Miguel Cabrera homered twice, hitting one of visiting Detroit's three homers off Cleveland's Corey Kluber.

**Rays 4, Red Sox 3 (10):** Matt Joyce hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to help host Tampa Bay salvage a split of a four-game series with Boston.

**Rockies 2-10, Giants 4-9:** Charlie Blackmon lined a two-out single in the ninth inning off Sergio Romo, helping host Colorado stop San Francisco's six-game winning streak.

Earlier in the day, the Giants broke away from a tie and beat the Rockies in a game that resumed after it was suspended May 22 in the sixth inning because of rain.

**Cubs 4, Brewers 2:** Wellington Castillo homered and drove in three runs, Luis Valbuena also hit a home run and host Chicago sent Milwaukee to its sixth straight loss.

**Marlins 9, Mets 6:** Giancarlo Stanton hit his 34th home run and host Miami scored three runs in the eighth inning to beat New York.

**Padres 3, Diamondbacks 1:** Cory Spangenberg had a two-run single for his first big league hit and Tyson Ross pitched six strong innings to lead host San Diego over Arizona.



## MLB/NFL



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Phillies pitchers, from left, Ken Giles, Cole Hamels, Jonathan Papelbon and Jake Diekmann joke during a news conference after they combined efforts for a no-hitter against the Braves on Monday in a 7-0 win.

# Phillies combine for no-no

## Hamels, 3 relievers blank Braves for 11th joint no-hitter in history

By GEORGE HENRY  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The biggest number for Cole Hamels after six innings wasn't the zero in the hits allowed column but the 108 pitches thrown by the Philadelphia Phillies' starter.

That was enough, even though it meant giving up a chance at reaching one of baseball's most special personal milestones.

No worries. The boys in the bullpen gave the entire pitching staff something to celebrate as a team.

Hamels and three Phillies relievers combined on the season's fourth no-hitter, blanking the Atlanta Braves 7-0 on Monday and giving a last-place team a rare reason to rejoice.

It was all the more unusual in that Hamels left with his bid intact after six. He was fine with the decision, too, having already exceeded the century mark in pitches on a hot afternoon at Turner Field.

Hamels (8-6) struck out seven, matched a season high with five walks and hit a batter.

"Just understanding the situation, every time I went out there I was battling control issues," Hamels said. "I wasn't getting

ahead of guys. Walking the lead-off hitter will put you in a lot of trouble, and it does. It builds up your pitch count."

So the bullpen bailed him out. Relievers Jake Diekmann, Ken Giles and Jonathan Papelbon each pitched a perfect inning to close out the 11th combined no-hitter in big league history. A smiling Hamels watched from the bench as they finished what he started.

"I think having a combined no-hitter is very difficult because guys have to come right in and get the guys out, no matter what the situation is," Hamels said. "It's a little more dramatic to be able to see that you're trying to play the cards as best you can against the lineup."

Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg knew Hamels was tired and ready to come out of the game. Their conversation was quick.

"It didn't take long," Sandberg said. "He was pretty well spent there. The early innings had something to do with it. The stressful innings, stranding the runners at second and third a couple of times, but he wasn't going to go nine. And he ran the bases the inning before."

Hamels singled in the sixth in

his only official at-bat and came around to score.

Papelbon was in the middle of the hugs and handshakes on the mound when the game was over.

"I think it's a cool experience," Papelbon said. "It's definitely been a rough go at it this year for our ballclub. Something that kind of hang our hat on for the year. Cole has been our bona fide ace for the entire season, and it's good to preserve those wins for our starters. Today it was preserving a no-hitter."

Clayton Kershaw and Josh Beckett of the Dodgers, and Tim Lincecum of the Giants threw no-hitters earlier this year.

Right fielder Marlon Byrd foiled the Braves' best bid for a hit. With runners on second and third in the third inning, Byrd raced in and toward the line to make a diving catch on Chris Johnson's slicing liner to end the inning.

"It happened at a perfect time, making that catch," Byrd said. "Keeping him in the game, keeping us in the lead, the whole nine. It was nice."

Johnson came close again in the ninth with a grounder up the middle. Shortstop Jimmy Rollins ranged behind the bag to make the play.

### FROM BACK PAGE

**No huddles:** The no-huddle offense has been a part of pro football since John Unitas pretty much invented the two-minute drill. It normally was reserved for late portions of halves and games.

It's running rampant through the league now, its popularity buoyed by the record-smashing seasons Peyton Manning and Tom Brady recently put together. Super Bowl-winning quarterback Phil Simms, now an analyst for CBS, says it's here to stay.

"Faster offense will be a part of the NFL," Simms says. "What was a talented offense from 10 years ago is so much less so now because it is harder to run the ball."

Simms believes teams will pass more than ever, combining that with the no-huddle.

"We'll be seeing out of these offenses all these screens, trying to tire out key defensive players," he explains. "That's a matchup the offenses can win, and it is almost a must by an NFL offense to have."

Simms says offenses need to do something different because, "you won't win 17-13 anymore in the playoffs."

"And what's unique? Well, go as fast as you can."

**Play calling:** Rich Gannon, the NFL's 2002 MVP while leading the Raiders to the Super Bowl, thinks the faster pace will affect the one calling plays.

The traditional system of relaying a play or formations from the coordinators to the quarterbacks or defensive leaders is endangered, Gannon predicts. So is a quarterback calling just one play.

"Years ago, offensive coordinators were trying to guess right," says Gannon, now an analyst for SiriusXM NFL Radio and for CBS. "They would find a set of plays based on preparation during the week and on their knowledge of the percentage defenses did certain things."

That's changed, he says, and modern offenses need a quarterback who can adjust on the line.

Denver, New England, New Orleans, Green Bay, a few others — they don't have to worry.

Other teams will continue searching for a quarterback who has a great arm and the intelli-

gence to make the right call while the play clock is ticking.

"We'll be seeing quarterbacks calling multiple plays in the huddle. When they get to the line, they use the play that fits," Gannon says. "It's not an audible, but it's the quarterbacks being given the freedom they need to get into the right play."

**Technology:** "There is only so much you can do differently on the field," Vincent reasons. "So who gets the edge might depend on who is willing to let technology become a positive."

While the league is allowing teams to use tablets on the sideline for everything from play calling to reviewing what just happened, not everyone is readily embracing it. He senses that some coaches entrenched in the past might not make a smooth switch.

Until, that is, they recognize that an opponent is getting a competitive advantage from the technology.

"We've seen things copied through the years, from traditional lineups to the run-and-shoot to the zone blitz to the wildcat," Vincent says. "Now it will be in technology, sorting through information quicker, using it for practices, schedules, scouting."

**Elsewhere:** Teams are learning from one another when it comes to such areas as in-game entertainment — player introductions, cheerleaders, game day hosts, even the music — merchandising, ticketing and stadium development. A club planning a new home or renovating the existing one typically uses comparisons of other stadiums.

"Teams share their best practices, and the league encourages such information sharing," says Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp and a close observer of league business. "Because in most nonfield operations the teams do not compete, they are generally happy to share information and copy each other openly."

"Of course, there are a few teams that are trailblazers and innovate more than others. But even the safest approach to job security for team executives and managers is to mimic what other teams are doing. And so they do."

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## NFL PREVIEW



AL BEHRMAN/AP

Colts quarterback Andrew Luck threw for 3,822 yards last season despite losing Reggie Wayne to injury. Wayne is back and the Colts added Hakeem Nicks to the mix, which should boost Luck's numbers.

## NEW PASSING COMBOS

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

Just what Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III need: more dynamic receivers. Six NFL teams have made significant alterations in their passing games. Denver, Indianapolis, Washington and Baltimore did so with proven wideouts. Tampa Bay and Houston chose new quarterbacks to combine with an established target.



## Denver

Eric Decker left Manning for Geno Smith and the Jets. In his place is Emmanuel Sanders, who has more speed than Decker and also can return kicks. He's not as big a target as Decker, but Sanders is more dangerous, especially with Demaryius Thomas, Wes Welker and Julius Thomas on hand.

"I wanted to go to a team that would sling the ball around the field," Sanders said.

He sure found one.



## Tampa Bay

Somehow, despite the turmoil in Tampa last season, Vincent Jackson caught 78 passes for 1,224 yards and seven TDs. Now, he has a somewhat-accomplished veteran throwing to him in Josh McCown.

All McCown did last year in Chicago was take over for injured Jay Cutler and look like a top-level passer. He's intelligent, experienced, and the best thing Jackson has had on the other end of passes since he left Philip Rivers and the Chargers.

"I think a lot of it just has to do with his savvy on the field," Wax said of McCown. "He's a very smart guy. He understands space and location and separation on routes and the way the dimensions of a defense work."



## Washington

Most eyes in the nation's capital will be on RG3's mobility after a lost season. Many ears will be on his conversations with new coach Jay Gruden after the discord between Griffin and Mike Shanahan.

Griffin certainly has a stronger chance of recapturing his 2012 Offensive Rookie of the Year form now that DeSean Jackson is on his side. Jackson's game-breaking skills, along with his desire to show the Eagles they erred in getting rid of him, should enhance a potentially powerful offense.

"We're going to be tough, because whatever (an opponent) decides to stop, we've got other options," Jackson said.

Watch for him to be a main option.



## Indianapolis

Just about any free-agent receiver would be enticed by joining Luck, perhaps the best pure passer among the young NFL quarterbacks. Hakeem Nicks got the opportunity, though it meant leaving two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning.

Nicks had a strong start to his career with the Giants, then was plagued by injuries and indifferent play the last two seasons.

Now, he says he's healthy and should be able to team with T.Y. Hilton and Reggie Wayne to spread the field for Luck.



## Baltimore

When Anquan Boldin left the Ravens after their 2012 championship season, so did much of the edge in Baltimore's passing game.

That feistiness and physicality is back with Steve Smith joining Joe Flacco.

This is a juicy pairing because Flacco desperately needed a wideout who could intimidate, and Smith needed a seasoned quarterback with a formidable arm and the freedom to use it.

"I like the way he throws," Smith said. "He makes it easy to catch the ball."

Watch for Smith to do so about 80 times this season.



## Houston

Andre Johnson has been one of the NFL's top receivers for a decade, having the most success with Matt Schaub. But Schaub is in Oakland now and journeyman QB Ryan Fitzpatrick gets the call.

Fitzpatrick has plenty of starting experience, and he's never had a pass-catch partner as skilled as Johnson. But he's also maddeningly inconsistent, and Houston has no proven wideout to complement Johnson.

"Anytime you have somebody like that on your team it's a great thing," Fitzpatrick says of Johnson, "and he'll be a great player like he always has (been) and a great leader for us this year."

But maybe not nearly as productive.

## McCoy wants 2,000 and to get better

By ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — LeSean McCoy holds eight Philadelphia Eagles team records, is a two-time All-Pro, and already declared to the world that he's the best running back in the NFL.

He thinks he can do more.

"There's different things that I can get better at," McCoy said. "A lot of players, they hide it because they get to a certain level where they feel they're so good. I don't hide it. If I have a bad game, I'll sit here and tell you I had a bad game. That's something I try to get better at. I want to be elite all the time. Not just Sundays, every day."

Anyone who paid attention to McCoy during training camp knows he wants to run for 2,000 yards this season. His obsession with that number is partly due to a promotional campaign for Bounce dryer sheets, but for McCoy the lofty goal isn't a gimmick.

"Who wouldn't like to do it?" McCoy said. "But I just like to have fun with it. I let the media and all the fans really react to it, and the fantasy people. But the biggest thing is winning. That's what I want to do. That's the main goal."

McCoy will start his quest for 2,000 against a run defense that was fourth worst in the NFL last year when the Eagles host the Jaguars in the season opener Sun-

day. You won't hear him complain if he doesn't get enough carries.

Coach Chip Kelly has zero tolerance for players who put individual goals ahead of the team. Just ask DeSean Jackson, the three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver who was released after having the best season of his career. Jackson had a reputation for putting if he wasn't happy with his receptions, even if the team won.

"All we care about is winning football games," Kelly said. "We've never been driven by individual statistics and [McCoy] understands that. But if you ask him if he'd rather win a football game and run for 50 yards, I think he would be the first to tell you that than run for 200 yards and lose a football game."

McCoy set a franchise record with 1,607 yards rushing last year, surpassing Wilbert Montgomery's 1,512 in 1979. His 2,146 yards from scrimmage also were a team record. He led the NFL in both categories.

Kelly is tough on his star player. He also says McCoy can take his game to a higher level.

"He can do everything better," Kelly said. "He can do a better job in pass protection, he can do a better job in short-yardage situations, he can do a better job in eliminating negative plays where maybe the hole is not exactly there, but second-and-9 is better than second-and-14."



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## NFL PREVIEW

## NFC SOUTH

## Repeat champs are few and far between

Saints, Falcons made moves in free agency in attempt to wrest away Panthers' crown

By STEVE REED  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers will need to rewrite history if they hope to repeat as NFC South champions this season.

It won't be easy.

No team has won back-to-back NFC South division titles since the league realigned in 2002. The Panthers are in a division stacked with formidable foes — not to mention tremendously talented quarterbacks — in Atlanta and New Orleans. And Tampa Bay is considered a dark horse under new coach Lovie Smith.

The Saints and Falcons have grabbed headlines with their offseason upgrades, while the salary cap-strapped Panthers have released star wide receiver Steve Smith, saw veteran left tackle Jordan Gross retire, and lost a handful of key free agents.

Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis views the past as a plus.

"A lot of people are ruling us out right now based on the history of the division — and that's OK with us," said Davis, entering his 10th season with the Panthers. "We do our best work when we're not expected to do anything. We're not going to do a bunch of trash talk, we're just going to go out and show it."

Carolina boasts the league's No. 2 defense led by middle linebacker and Defensive Player of the Year Luke Kuechly. However,

questions remain about an offense that lost four linemen to retirement, and its top four receivers.

But the Panthers aren't the only team with concerns.

The Saints are worried about a leaky, injury-plagued secondary. The Falcons have concerns about protecting quarterback Matt Ryan and replacing his favorite red zone target, Tony Gonzalez. And the Bucs are banking on 35-year-old journeyman quarterback Josh McCown to boost their offense.

"I think the South is the most competitive division in the entire NFL," Falcons coach Mike Smith said.

Smith points to Drew Brees in New Orleans, Newton in Carolina and Ryan in Atlanta as three big reasons why.

"We have a division that has three outstanding quarterbacks, and this is a quarterback-driven league," Smith said. "They've all been to the Pro Bowl in the last three or four years."

The NFC South has been remarkably balanced since 2002, with each team winning three division titles.

Some things to watch in the NFC South:

**Suspect secondary:** The Saints spent money upgrading their secondary, though it's unclear how those moves will pan out. New Orleans brought in three-time Pro Bowl safety Jairus Byrd and 12-time Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey. Byrd had offseason back surgery and has been limit-



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Quarterback Cam Newton led Carolina to the NFC South title a year ago, but the cash-strapped Panthers lost key free agents, including receiver Steve Smith, and veteran left tackle Jordan Gross retired.

ed during training camp, while the 36-year-old Bailey went down with an unspecified leg injury early in camp and was released.

Cornerback Patrick Robinson, a 2012 first-round pick whose comeback from knee surgery showed promise early in camp, has been battling an undisclosed leg injury.

**Protecting Ryan:** The offensive line was a concern even before left tackle Sam Baker was lost for the season with a torn patellar tendon in his right knee. First-round pick Jake Matthews moved from right to left tackle and Lamar Holmes, who made 15 starts as a rookie in 2013, will battle with Gabe Carimi at right tackle.

The line already had a new look with both Matthews and free-agent addition right Jon Asamoah moving in as new starters. Ryan was sacked a career-high 44 times and was pressured 203 times, most in the NFL in 2013. The Falcons ranked last in rushing.

**Receivers needed:** The Panthers lost their top four wide receivers from last year including Smith, the franchise's all-time leader in receptions and touchdowns. They couldn't afford to keep free agents Brandon

LaFell, Ted Ginn Jr. and Domenik Hixon. NFL Coach of the Year Ron Rivera expects first-round draft pick Kelvin Benjamin, who has earned a starting spot, to emerge as the No. 1 receiver and work alongside veterans Jerricho Cotchery and Jason Avant.

**Pass happy:** At 35, Brees recently gave up ulcers to opposing NFC South coaches saying he feels healthy enough to play another 10 years. He's thrown for more than 5,000 yards and no fewer than 39 touchdowns in three straight seasons.

He'll be aiming to reach such numbers again with the help of star tight end Jimmy Graham, Saints all-time leading receiver Marques Colston, and first-round draft choice Brandon Cooks.

The Panthers were 30th in scoring and last in passing in 2013. Smith is banking on career backup QB McCown being a big part of the solution.

The 35-year-old is coming off his best season, throwing for 13 TDs and one interception while going 3-2 as a starter as a fill-in for an injured Jay Cutler in Chicago.

## Team capsules in predicted order of finish

## New Orleans Saints



**New faces:** FS Jairus Byrd, rookie WR Brandon Cooks, C Jonathan Goodwin

**Key losses:** FS Malcolm Jenkins, SS Roman Harper, WR Lance Moore, C Brian de la Puente, FB Jed Collins.

**Strengths:** QB, DL, TE, DE, OL, P.

**Weaknesses:** LB, PK.

**What's New:** Saints aim to create more turnovers, hoping additions of Byrd and Bailey, as well as return from injury of CB Patrick Robinson, help to that end. Offense will have some new receivers in prominent roles, most notably first-round draft choice Cooks. Saints also aim to run ball better, relying on RB trio of Mark Ingram, Pierre Thomas and Khiry Robinson.

**Expectations:** Saints were playoff team last season, winning the first road game in the franchise's postseason history. Team expects to be even better, and is favored to unseat the Carolina Panthers as division champions. Much will depend on health of key players, though, including Byrd and pass-rushing tandem Cam Jordan and Junior Galette. If those key defensive players thrive, then offense led by record-setting QB Drew Brees, Saints' all-time leading receiver Marques Colston and All-Pro TE Jimmy Graham expects to have little trouble outscoring most of its opponents.

## Atlanta Falcons



**New faces:** WR/KR Devin Hester, OGs Jon Asamoah and Gabe Carimi, DT Paul Soliai, CB Javier Arenas, rookie OT Jake Matthews, DE Tyson Jackson, rookie RB Devonta Freeman, rookie LB Prince Shembo, QB T.J.

Yates, S Dwight Lowery, OL coach Mike Tice and DL coach Bryan Cox.

**Key losses:** RB Jason Snelling, S Thomas DeCoud, OL Garrett Reynolds, FB Bradie Irving, QB Dominique Davis, TE Tony Gonzalez, OT Sam Baker, LB Marquis Spruill, CB Akeem Samuel, LBs Sean Weatherspoon, Akante Daniel and Stephen Nicholas.

**Strengths:** QB, WR, DT, CB.

**Weaknesses:** RT, RB, LB, C, TE.

**What's New:** Falcons expected to use 3-4 base defense scheme, though they'll have different looks in different situations to be less predictable. With Gonzalez gone, Ryan should target more receivers in slot, including White and Douglas.

**Expectations:** Falcons believe injuries were cause of last year's collapse after five straight winning seasons. New injuries to Weatherspoon, Baker, Spruill and RB Steven Jackson have put damper on preseason. Assuming Jackson bounces back from right hamstring injury and rebuilt offensive line finds some cohesion, Ryan could put up big numbers.

## Carolina Panthers



**New faces:** WRs Jason Avant, Jerricho Cotchery, and rookie WR Kelvin Benjamin, CB Antoine Cason, TE Ed Dickson, FS Thomas DeCoud, SS Roman Harper.

**Key losses:** WR Ted Ginn Jr., OT Jordan Gross, WR

Brandon LaFell, S Mike Mitchell, CB Captain Munnerlyn, WR Steve Smith, OG Travellie Wharton.

**Strengths:** QB, DE, LB, TE.

**Weaknesses:** OL, WR, CB.

**What's New:** Panthers plan to use more two-point sets with addition of Dickson and turn focus toward running ball. Panthers looking to replace top four WRs from last season. Benjamin, first-round pick, looks like real deal and will start opposite Cotchery. Loss of Ginn hurts return game.

**Expectations:** Panthers overcame 1-3 start to win NFC South last season, earning Ron Rivera Coach of Year award after rumors began to swirl that he would be fired. Entire front seven returns from No. 2-ranked defense. QB Cam Newton is coming off offseason ankle surgery and isn't expected to run as much. Panthers expect to compete for another division title, but face stiff competition in New Orleans Saints and Atlanta Falcons. Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be improved, as well.

## Tampa Bay Buccaneers



**New faces:** QB Josh McCown, DE Michael Johnson, rookie WR Mike Evans, CB Alterraun Verner, T Anthony Collins, C Evan Dietrich-Smith, DT Clinton McDonald, TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins, LB Brandon

Myers, WR Louis Murphy.

**Key losses:** CB Darrelle Revis, WR Mike Williams, T Donald Penn, G Davin Joseph, C Jeremy Zuttah, LB Dekoda Watson.

**Strengths:** DT, RB, LB, TE, CB.

**Weaknesses:** QB, OL, DE.

**What's New:** Lovie Smith's first order of business was hiring Jeff Tedford, who helped develop Aaron Rodgers and five other first-round QBs. Hope is he will bring creativity to unit that ranked 30th in scoring and last in passing and total yardage. Leslie Frazier was brought in as defensive coordinator, installing Smith's version of Tampa-2 scheme that keyed decade of success that included franchise's only NFL title.

**Expectations:** Bucs haven't made playoffs since 2007 and don't have postseason victory since winning Super Bowl 12 years ago, so .500 or better finish would be a step forward. Even though Smith inherited crew of good defense and improved it in free agency, offense is huge question mark with four new starters on line.

— The Associated Press



## NFL PREVIEWS

## NFC EAST

## High-flying Eagles ready to grab top perch

Foles makes good case to be called division's best quarterback over Eli, Romo or RG3

By ROB MADDI  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Eli Manning has two Super Bowl rings. Tony Romo makes the most money. RG3 is arguably the most talented.

Nick Foles? Well, he just might be the best quarterback in the NFC East.

"I'm not trying to be someone else, I'm just taking it in stride," Foles said. "This year is a little different, and there's going to be a little more on my plate, but it's just been a gradual growth through the last couple years to get to this point. And then I just have to continue to grow each and every day and have fun doing it."

Foles had one of the best statistical seasons in NFL history as he led the Philadelphia Eagles to a division title in his sophomore season and Chip Kelly's first as coach.

He replaced Michael Vick in October, went 8-2 as the starter and finished with 29 touchdown passes and two interceptions in 11 starts, including a playoff loss to New Orleans.

Foles also set an NFL record for best TD/interception ratio and his passer rating of 119.2 was the third highest in NFL history.

Manning is coming off his worst season for the Giants, who went 7-9. He threw a league-high 27 interceptions and had a dismal 69.4 passer rating. Romo is

coming back from surgery for a herniated disk that sidelined him for the Cowboys' winner-take-all season finale against the Eagles. Robert Griffin III struggled in his return from an ACL injury after a fantastic rookie season and the Redskins went 3-13, costing coach Mike Shanahan his job.

This division may only have one team finish with a winning record, and 9-7 might get the crown. So whichever quarterback has the best regular season among the four could make the difference.

Some things to know about the NFC East:

**Replacing D-Jax:** Kelly made the boldest move of his short tenure when he released three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver DeSean Jackson after the best season of his career.

The Eagles couldn't even get a low-round draft pick of Jackson, so they cut him. Kelly never explained the move, but Jackson's hefty contract and me-first attitude are probably why.

They're counting on Jeremy Maclin to return to form after knee surgery cost him all of last season. They're hoping Riley Cooper builds on his breakout year.

They need rookie Jordan Matthews to contribute right away. Second-year tight end Zach Ertz has big potential, and the versatile Darren Sproles, acquired from New Orleans, could end up replacing some of Jackson's



RON JENNINGS, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

**Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles set an NFL record for best TD/interception ratio last season and his passer rating of 119.2 was the third highest in NFL history.**

**touches.**

**Right is enough:** Jay Gruden is the eighth head coach employed by owner Dan Snyder in 16 years in Washington. A former Arena League quarterback who ran Cincinnati's offense for three seasons, Gruden brings a West Coast style along with a reputation for being a players' coach. Getting along with RG3 is one thing. Figuring out how to win games is a tougher task.

The Redskins have plenty of playmakers on offense with Jackson joining Alfred Morris (2,888

yards rushing in 2012-13), Pierre Garcon (NFL-high 113 catches in 2013) and Jordan Reed (45 catches in nine games). Defense is another story. The Redskins need productive seasons from some of their 30-something veterans on D.

**New-look Giants:** The Giants were big players in free agency for a change. They signed 19 veteran free agents, including 10 on offense. Running back Rashad Jennings moves into a starting role, and cornerbacks Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and

Walter Thurmond bolstered the secondary.

The Giants finished strong, going 7-3 after an 0-6 start. Their defense made a turnaround after Jon Beason was acquired from Carolina at midseason. But the middle linebacker has been sidelined by a foot injury. On offense, the rushing attack suffered a blow when David Wilson had to retire because of a neck injury. The Giants will need a lot of Manning to Victor Cruz this season.

**Doomed defense:** Remember the Domsday Defenses that led Dallas to a pair of Super Bowl titles in the 1960s and 70s? These Cowboys are far from it.

The league's most porous defense in 2013 lost its best player for the season when linebacker Sean Lee had knee surgery in the offseason. DeMarcus Ware, the franchise's career sacks leader, was released in March. Last year's sacks leader Jason Hatcher left for Washington.

There are issues in the secondary because of injuries, and cornerback Orlando Scandrick is out for the first four games for a drug suspension.

A revamped defensive line is currently missing the two biggest offseason acquisitions: free agent tackle Henry Melton and rookie defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence, a second-round pick. They have a lot of work to do when they're healthy after giving up 415.3 yards per game last year.

## Team capsules in predicted order of finish

## Philadelphia Eagles



**New faces:** S Malcolm Jenkins, RB Darren Sproles, QB Mark Sanchez, rookies LB Marcus Smith, RB Jordan Matthews and WR/RK Josh Huff, CB Nolan Carroll, S Chris Maragos.

**Key losses:** WR DeSean

Jackson, QB Michael Vick, WR Jason Avant.

**Strengths:** RB, QB, OL, TE, LB.

**Weaknesses:** WR, DB.

**What's New:** Jenkins gives Eagles proven leader in secondary, someone they've been missing since they let Brian Dawkins leave after 2008 season. Sproles should help replace some of Jackson's touches, but Eagles no longer have deep threat to stretch field. Stadium now has "highest-definition" scoreboards in NFL.

**Expectations:** Eagles exceeded expectations, going from worst to first in Chip Kelly's first season after moving from the college ranks at the University of Oregon. There hasn't been this much excitement heading into the season since WR Terrell Owens arrived in 2004 and teamed with QB Donovan McNabb to lead the Eagles to the NFL championship and their first Super Bowl berth since 1960. Offense might be Super Bowl-caliber, but defense isn't anywhere near there yet. Anything less than division crown and playoff victory might not be considered success in Philadelphia.

## Washington Redskins



**New faces:** Coach Jay Gruden, WR DeSean Jackson, WR Andre Roberts, DE Jason Hatcher, S Ryan Clark, G Shawn Lauva, rookie LB Trent Murphy.

**Key losses:** Coach Mike

Shanahan, LB London

Fletcher, CB Josh Wilson, WR Joshua Morgan, C

Walt Montgomery, S Reed Doughty.

**Strengths:** WR, OL, TE.

**Weaknesses:** OL, DB.

**What's New:** Gruden and GM Bruce Allen have brought about franchise's latest culture change, from Shanahan's authoritarian ways to structure of shared responsibility. Gruden is determined to make QB Robert Griffin III more a traditional pocket passer, a transformation that could take some time. At least WR Jackson, Roberts, Pierre Garcon and Santana Moss give RG3 plenty of options.

**Expectations:** The Redskins' nowhere to go but up after fifth last-place finish in six seasons. Improved atmosphere under Gruden alone should be worth extra win or two, but he's also rookie NFL head coach dealing with headstrong QB. Offseason additions mean offense should be more potent. Defense should have better pass rush, and special teams should be better in every aspect — perhaps enough to be competitive in NFC East that doesn't appear to have dominant team.

## New York Giants



**New faces:** Offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo, OL Geoff Schwartz, CBs Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Walter Thurmond and Zack Bowman, RB Rashad Jennings, rookie WR Odell Beckham Jr., LB Jameel Mc

Clain, C J.D. Walton, DE Robert Ayers.

**Key losses:** DE Justin Tuck, DT Linval Joseph, G Chris Snee, G Kevin Bothe, WR Hakeem Nicks, offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride.

**Strengths:** WR, DB.

**Weaknesses:** OL, TE.

**What's New:** Up-tempo offense under former Packers assistant McAdoo. It's struggled in preseason with new line and no standout tight end. Secondary has talent and depth and may need both with revamped line that lost Tuck and Joseph, and has Jason Pierre-Paul coming off injury-plagued season. Rookies LB Devon Kennard, G-C Weston Richberg, RB Andre Williams and WR Beckham Jr. might have immediate impacts.

**Expectations:** Giants have missed playoffs past two seasons and chances of getting back are iffy unless QB Eli Manning picks up his game. He threw NFL-high 27 interceptions. Now, offense starts adapting to new scheme. Defense has potential to be good, especially if Pierre-Paul returns to 2011 form. Playing in relatively weak NFC East should help.

## Dallas Cowboys



**New faces:** Rookies LB Antwan Hitchens, DE DeMarcus Lawrence, OL Zack Martin, DT Terrell McClain, LB Rolando McClain, DT Henry Melton, DE Jeremy Minney, QB Brandon

Weeden.

**Key losses:** LB Sean Lee, DE DeMarcus Ware,

DT Jason Hatcher, QB Kyle Orton.

**Strengths:** QB, RB, WR, OL.

**Weaknesses:** LB, DB.

**What's New:** Scott Linehan is third play caller in as many seasons as Tony Romo, who is likely to throw downfield more than last year when Bill Callahan was running show. Linehan seems to have plans for RB Lance Dunbar because undrafted third-year player quickly rose to No. 2 spot behind DeMarco Murray and even got star treatment as healthy scratch in first preseason game.

**Expectations:** Cowboys don't look better than 8-8 — their record for three years running — because they're still scrambling for answers on defense that allowed most yards in league last year. Defense is without two best players in Lee and Ware. Another season without playoffs will match franchise record of five straight. That won't sit well with coach Jason Garrett and certainly not with owner Jerry Jones.

— The Associated Press

## US OPEN/GOLF



JOHN MINICILLIO/AP

Eugenie Bouchard returns a shot to Ekaterina Makarova during the fourth round of the 2014 U.S. Open on Monday in New York. The No. 7-seeded Bouchard lost 7-6 (2), 6-4.

# Dizzy from heat, Bouchard bounced in fourth round

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bothered by the heat and stifling humidity, Eugenie Bouchard felt dizzy and her vision was blurry.

She got her blood pressure checked. Plastic bags filled with ice were rubbed on her shoulders, arms and legs during a second-set medical timeout.

Bouchard tried to carry on, but it was hardly an ideal time to try to win a tennis match. The No. 7-seeded Bouchard became the latest top woman to bow out at this surprise-filled U.S. Open, beaten 7-6 (2), 6-4 Monday by 17th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova of Russia in the fourth round.

It ended Bouchard's streak of making at least the semifinals at each Grand Slam tournament this year. That included a runner-up finish at Wimbledon in July; the 20-year-old Canadian is only 4-4

since then.

In muggy air, with the temperature in the high 80s, Bouchard began having trouble from the middle of the first set and was checked on by a trainer during the changeover after the second set's fifth game. During that delay, Makarova cooled down by putting ice bags on herself.

It's not the first time Bouchard has been affected by heat, saying it happened at last year's U.S. Open, too, and as a junior at the Australian Open.

"Once in a while, I get a little bit light-headed," Bouchard said. "That's what happens."

While Makarova is into the U.S. Open quarterfinals for the second year in a row, Bouchard's early-for-her major exit fits with the way things have gone the past eight days. Only two of the top 10 seeded women remain: No. 1 Serena Williams and No. 10 Wozniacki.

Williams got to her first Grand

Slam quarterfinal of 2014 by overwhelming 50th-ranked Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-3, 6-3 Monday, winning her first 12 service points with the help of five aces.

The top-seeded man, Novak Djokovic, played mostly mistake-free tennis, making only 19 unforced errors and facing only two break points — both saved — in a 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 victory over 22nd-seeded Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany. Djokovic now meets two-time major champion Andy Murray, who got past No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-5, 7-5, 6-4.

In fourth-round men's matches Monday night, No. 3 Stan Wawrinka brushed off a tumble into the stands and beat No. 16 Tommy Robredo 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7), 6-2. He will face 10th-seeded Kei Nishikori, who came from behind for a five-set victory over fifth-seeded Milos Raonic that ended at nearly 2:30 a.m.

## Deutsche Bank Classic

# Win puts Kirk in Ryder discussion

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Chris Kirk figured the Ryder Cup was out of his hands when he failed to earn one of the nine automatic spots. He already has plans to be at the Tennessee-Georgia football game during the matches in Scotland. He doesn't see any need to call U.S. captain Tom Watson and lobby for a pick.

"It's not like there's anything that I can do to sway it one way or another," Kirk said Monday after his victory in the Deutsche Bank Championship. "I can't say, 'Hey, Tom, please pick me now.' I don't think that's going to change his mind a whole lot."

Kirk did far more with his actions than his words.

He played the final 36 holes with Rory McIlroy, the best golfer in the world. He went the last 37 holes without a bogey on the TPC Boston. Even without a birdie on any of the par 5s, Kirk closed with a 5-under 66 and made three clutch putts to win a FedEx Cup playoff event.

"The biggest win of my career," he said.

How big? That could depend on Tuesday when Watson announces his three captain's picks.

The last three weeks — particularly the opening two events of the FedEx Cup playoffs — effectively served as an audition for players who didn't make the team. Hunter Mahan won last week at The Barclays. He already has played on two Ryder Cup teams.

Kirk doesn't have Ryder Cup experience, though his season deserves closer inspection. He finished No. 14 in the standings. He won for the second time this season — only three other Americans (Jimmy Walker, Patrick Reed, Bubba Watson) have multiple wins in the wraparound season.

The 29-year-old player from Georgia was more interested in the light blue trophy sitting on the table next to him.

"Winning the Deutsche Bank and going to No. 1 in the FedEx Cup, and \$1.4 million, that's plenty for me for one day," he said with



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Chris Kirk holds the trophy after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., on Monday.

a smile.

It was hard work, as it usually is at this playoff event.

Kirk started the final round two shots behind Russell Henley and finally caught up with a birdie on the ninth hole. By then, the race was on. Billy Horschel, playing in the final group with Henley, never went away. Geoff Ogilvy was the mystery guest, making putts from everywhere.

Kirk took the lead for the first time with a 25-foot birdie putt. Equally important was the 15-foot putt he made to save par from a bunker on the 15th hole after a terrible wedge missed the green to the left. And then he made a birdie putt from just outside 12 feet on the par-3 16th for a two-shot lead.

The only weak stroke Kirk made with his putter was on the 18th green, an 8-foot birdie attempt that never had a chance.

And that gave a chance to Horschel, who stood in the 18th fairway with a 6-iron for his second shot. Having seen Kirk fall to make birdie, Horschel thought for a second that it was his to win.

"When Chris missed his birdie, I thought I was going to hit it on the green. I thought I was going to make the putt and make the eagle and win it outright," Horschel said. "But it just wasn't my day, I guess, to hit that bad of a shot."



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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS



GARRY JONES/AP

Louisville running back Dominique Brown, top, tries to hurdle Miami linebacker Denzel Perryman on a first-half run Monday in Louisville, Ky. Louisville won 31-13.

## Louisville wins ACC debut

By GARY B. GRAVES  
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bobby Petrino watched his offense come together, and also enjoyed a solid performance for his defense. The opening of the Petrino sequel at Louisville doubled as one successful ACC debut for the Cardinals.

Dominique Brown had a 15-yard touchdown run in the third quarter and Gerald Christian scored on a 10-yard TD catch late in the fourth, leading Louisville to a 31-13 victory over Miami on Monday night.

Despite the 18-point margin, Louisville showed little of the offensive efficiency expected to be a staple of Petrino's second coaching stint at the school. The Cardinals outgained the Hurricanes 336-244 in a ragged offensive game for both teams.

But Louisville's new 3-4 defense had three takeaways in the program's first game in the Atlantic Coast Conference, including one that followed a costly fumble by Cardinals quarterback Will Gardner inside his 15.

The defense was especially good on third down, allowing the Hurricanes one conversion in 13 attempts.

"We got faith in each other," junior free safety James Sample said. "Coaches put us through the situation where we were backed up, where we have to act like our offense fumbled early in the

drive. We were used to it, we were ready for it."

After Louisville held Miami to a field goal following Gardner's second fumble in the third quarter, Brown's TD provided a 21-13 cushion. Christian's scoring pass from Gardner with 1:43 remaining sealed the win.

"I thought it would be a real battle and we would have to work extremely hard," said Petrino, who returned in January to the program he led to a 41-9 record from 2003-06. "Obviously, we made some mistakes on offense and on special teams. I thought the defense really did a great job all night long, especially on third down."

"We found a way to win the game."

Corvin Lamb's 97-yard kickoff return right before halftime provided the go-ahead score for Louisville, which had to withstand several Miami threats from there for a win that wasn't decided until late.

Gerod Holliman's interception of Hurricanes freshman Brad Kaaya and 61-yard return to the Miami 36 as time expired punctuated Louisville's gutsy defensive showing. Kaaya completed 17 of 29 passes for 174 yards but was sacked twice and threw two interceptions.

"We did not do a good enough job protecting a first-start quarterback period," Miami coach Al Golden said.

Brown finished with career bests of 33 carries for 143 yards. Gardner completed 20 of 28 passes for 206 yards with two TDs, but was sacked four times in his first start after being Teddy Bridgewater's backup last season.

Rough as it looked at times, the Cardinals took heart in finishing strong.

"We just wanted to wear them out in the fourth quarter," Brown said. "You know, just run and win, that's what we always preach."

The atmosphere was charged from the moment Petrino led the "Cards March" into Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in late afternoon.

Several hours later the Cardinals took the field under the lights in all-black uniforms with matching chrome helmets to thunderous cheers from a record crowd of 55,428, all but a few dressed in black.

Both teams provided additional drama as Louisville unveiled a new quarterback in Gardner.

Miami featured a newcomer at QB as well in Kaaya and welcomed back tailback Duke Johnson from a broken ankle. Some Hurricanes players also harbored hard feelings after last year's 36-9 bowl loss to the Cardinals.

All that excitement appeared to be a bit much for Louisville at the start. It went three-and-out on the game's first series without gaining a yard.

## Briefly

## Colts' owner Irsay pleads guilty to misdemeanor

The Associated Press

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. — Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay has pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of operating a vehicle while intoxicated stemming from his arrest after a traffic stop in March.

Irsay appeared in a Hamilton County court in Noblesville on Tuesday for a change-of-plea hearing. The 55-year-old Irsay will be on probation for a year and will be required to submit to drug tests. His driver's license has been suspended for one year.

He was arrested March 16 near his home in the Indianapolis suburb of Carmel after police say he was spotted driving slowly, stopping in the roadway and failing to use a turn signal. Officers said he had trouble reciting the alphabet and failed field sobriety tests. Various prescription drugs were found in his vehicle.

## Source: Watt gets \$100M deal

HOUSTON — A person with knowledge of the deal tells The Associated Press that star defensive end J.J. Watt has agreed to terms on a contract extension with the Houston Texans.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the deal had not been signed. Multiple media reports said the agreement was for six years and \$100 million, with \$51.8 million guaranteed and a \$10 million signing bonus.

Watt had two years left on his contract



Watt

74 tackles for loss, 36½ sacks and 27 pass breakups since he joined the league as the 11th overall pick in 2011.

## Baylor's Petty cracks bones

WACO, Texas — Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty has two cracked small bones in his back.

Petty had an MRI on Monday, a day after taking an early shot to his back and playing only the first half of the 10th-ranked Bears' season-opening 45-0 win over SMU.

The diagnosis was two cracked transverse processes, small bones that stick out from each side of a vertebra.

Coach Art Briles said during the Big 12 coaches teleconference that the reigning Big 12 offensive player of the year is day to day.

Baylor, which didn't practice Monday, is home Saturday night against Northwestern State.

Petty was hit in the back on his first series Sunday night. He still threw for 161 yards and two touchdowns, and added a 5-yard TD run for a 31-0 halftime lead.

The quarterback was clearly in discomfort, often clutching at his lower back. He grimaced and was slow getting up after taking a shot going into the end zone on his scoring run, but played two more series after that.

## Europe fills Ryder Cup roster

VIRGINIA WATER, England — European captain Paul McGinley chose Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood and Stephen Gallacher as his wild-card selections Tuesday for the Ryder Cup — leaving former No. 1 Luke Donald off the team.

Donald has been on the winning side in each of his four Ryder Cup appearances but has struggled for form this year after making changes to his swing.

"He wasn't expecting it — he was very disappointed," McGinley said after announcing his picks at European Tour headquarters at Wentworth.

Gallacher will be one of three rookies in the 12-man European team that will face the United States at Glenageais, Scotland, from Sept. 26-28, along with Victor Dubuisson and Jamie Donaldson.

The other players who qualified automatically for McGinley's team were Rory McIlroy, Henrik Stenson, Sergio Garcia, Justin Rose, Martin Kaymer, Thomas

Bjorn and Graeme McDowell.

Europe will be defending the trophy after its 14½-13½ win over the U.S. at Medinah in 2012.

## Senegal shocks at World Cup

Spain and Greece are headed to the round of 16, and Senegal is in position to join them after shaking up Group B with an upset Monday at the Basketball World Cup.

The Spanish earned a trip to their capital by routing Brazil in a battle of unbeatens to take the lead in Group A, while Greece clinched the first spot in Madrid by improving to 3-0 earlier in the day.

The U.S. was off, a night after rallying from a halftime deficit to beat Turkey.

Pau Gasol of the Chicago Bulls had 26 points and nine rebounds for Spain in its 82-63 victory over Brazil in Granada. The hosts had already routed Iran and Egypt by a combined 67 points, but have difficult first-round games remaining against France and Serbia.

Greece matched Spain for the overall best record by beating Puerto Rico 90-79 in Seville, and has won each of its games by double digits. The Greeks, who needed a wild card into the tournament, will next face a Croatia team that was stunned 77-75 Sunday by Senegal.

That dropped the Croations (2-4) into a three-way tie for second with Argentina and the Senegalese.



## SPORTS



## Team effort

Hamels, bullpen pull off  
no-hitter against Braves | **Page 26**

## NFL



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/AP

Thanks in part to Patriots QB Tom Brady's stellar success, the no-huddle offense once reserved for late portions of halves and games is running rampant through the league after record-smashing seasons by Brady and the Broncos' Peyton Manning.

# The sincerest form of flattery

Successful teams finding themselves imitated on the field, sidelines

By **BARRY WILNER**  
*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK

**T**roy Vincent pounds his fists on a conference room table and smiles.

"We are a copycat league, you bet," he says. "If Peyton and Philip and Brees and Brady are doing something

that's good, then go out and try to do the same thing."

Easier said than done if you don't have such star quarterbacks, but Vincent's point is well taken. The NFL's head of football operations, a star player for 15 pro seasons and former president of the players' union, recognizes that trends always will be a part of the sport.

Some burst on the scene and then fade quickly: the wildcat or alternating QBs, for example. Others — the zone blitz, the nickel back — have staying power.

In 2014, there will be plenty of plagiarism between the lines, on the sidelines, in the coaching boxes and even in the marketing departments.

**SEE FLATTERY ON PAGE 26**

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